

JT comment RE: Post Falls townhall meeting for Congressman Labrador Jan. 22

I attended the town meeting last night. The Press article didn't capture the tone of the gathering nor have today's comments. It was a first for me and was disquieting to put it mildly. There was significant TEA Party presence in the audience.

The first questioner asked first about EPA requirements of biodiesel use then... wait for it... "why haven't you moved to impeach Obama?" at which time there was much applause and cheering. More questions about the EPA, even chemtrails, VA retirement cuts (which Congressman Labrador explained as reduction of the COLA adjustments not reductions in base dollars). Rep. Labrador's TEA Party bona fides were challenged as he didn't know of a planned 10 Million Man March on DC. He did respond he did not advocate violence to bring political change and welcomed a peaceful March.

Rep. Labrador was applauded for supporting the govt shutdown which he stated "was Harry Reid's intent." Some in the audience lauded Ted Cruz for "his leadership." Rep Labrador's response was (paraphrasing) "Sen Cruz has it easy as, being in the minority, his vote doesn't affect anything." Rep Labrador stated he has been told he won't advance, committee chairmanships will be denied him and similar ostracizing is the result of his resistance to the leadership. Rep Labrador also highlighted his many Sunday news show appearances as an example of his conservative leadership.

There were other questions/comments regarding support of returning troops to which he responded well.

While the audience was definitely supportive it was also challenging. I left with the feeling Rep Labrador is not quite as far to the right as the audience. I also left not hearing of any solutions nor examples of where Republican ideas are truly helping "employees."