



Rep. Tom Emmer on TOP STORY WITH TOM LLAMAS – 2025

NBC

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HOST:

I want to bring in House Majority Whip, Representative Tom Emmer of Minnesota, who joins us tonight from the Capitol. Representative, thanks so much for joining Top Story. My first question to you is, what are you looking forward to hearing from the President tonight, and will this speech be unifying?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I believe it will be, and I think the theme is going to be about promises made, promises kept. I mean, in the first 43 days of his administration, Donald Trump has been delivering on what 77 million Americans voted for. They wanted to see somebody start fighting on their behalf, downsizing government or right-sizing government, rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse, sealing our southern border, and getting things moving. Donald Trump's been doing that about as fast as he can. And then I think he's going to talk about renewing the American dream and ushering in the golden age of America. I do think it's going to be a forward-looking vision of a country that the vast majority of Americans voted for back in November. Seventy-seven million Americans voted for Donald Trump, and he's going to deliver.

HOST:

Congressman, you know, you just said it. Promises made, promises kept. And that includes tariffs, right? And the President is steadfast in those tariffs with Mexico and China. He said you could feel some pain in the beginning. We are likely to feel some of that pain. How do you think he's going to address that and explain that to voters tonight?

REP. TOM EMMER:

It's about free trade, but fair trade, right? When you've got reciprocal trade issues where our friends, our trade partners, have been taking significant advantage of our markets, while at the same time denying some of the best producers in the world, which are in the U.S., denying them access to their markets. Donald Trump made this clear during the campaign. He's following through on it now. Tariffs are a tool that he uses. And I would just caution our friends who are out there who think that this is a back-and-forth. Donald Trump told the American people that he was going to fight for them and make sure that it was fair. If they want to retaliate, they just want to defend the unfairness. I think Americans are going to support Donald Trump even more as he tries to fight through this to make sure that we are treated fairly around the globe.

HOST:

Congressman, NBC News is reporting tonight that the chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee told lawmakers today that they should stop holding town halls after multiple instances of lawmakers being berated. I'm sure you've seen some of these videos. Have you heard concerns from any of your own



constituents related to doge and cuts to the federal workforce?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Actually, what I'm hearing from my constituents is they're excited. They are so happy that literally Donald Trump has tasked Elon Musk and others with rooting out the waste, fraud, and abuse. And the more that they find, the more that they show to the country, my constituents are overwhelmingly in favor. And when it comes to town halls, the advice that we give is you do what you believe is right. Our members know how to relate to their constituents. They didn't get here without doing the customer service that's necessary, and they'll continue to do that.

HOST:

Congressman, are you doing any town halls? Do you have any planned?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I do. I do town halls all the time. I haven't done any so far this year, but, yeah, we have some that are going to be on the books.

HOST:

All right. Let's turn to Ukraine now. You were one of the biggest supporters for aid to Ukraine. I know a conservative group gave you an A rating. What is your take on what's happening right now, the pause in military aid to Ukraine?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Look, I am. I do support the aid to Ukraine. I believe the mission was to stop Putin. But here you've got a president, Joe Biden, who was there for four years, and his thought was just throw money at the problem. When were we going to get it resolved? Now you've got Donald Trump, who literally is the peacemaker. He is working with both sides, and I think he's also encouraging Europe to get off the bench, get into the game, and understand this is their backyard, and they've got to start taking care of it at the level that should be necessary. It shouldn't be the U.S. always taking care of that issue. I do think that President Zelensky's public statement this morning was the one he probably should have given when he was in the White House last week. It shows that he's ready to sit down and have a discussion. Look, Donald Trump just wants peace. I think the world would want peace at the same time.

HOST:

Can you give a message for the men and women on the front lines there in this war in Ukraine? Will military aid from the U.S. flow again into Ukraine soon?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I think what President Zelensky did this morning is going to go a long way towards getting President Trump and his administration engaged, not just making sure that they have the investments that are necessary for their own defense and protection, but more importantly, so that they can sit down at the table and see what is achievable in terms of resolving this conflict so we can start ending the needless loss, tragic loss of life that that war has created.

HOST:



Congressman Tom Emmer, we thank you for your time tonight.

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