



Rep. Tom Emmer on Weekly Video Update: TPA

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****HOST (MS. PETERSON):**

** [Previous question not included in transcript]

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Well, actually, Ms. Peterson is absolutely correct. At a time when this president flouts the rule of law, when he would prefer to create law with the stroke of his pen instead of allowing this beautiful constitutional legislative process that was created by our founders to work appropriately. Remember, there's supposed to be balance. We don't have a monarchy in this country. Congress is supposed to exercise authority over agreements with foreign nations. It's actually Article 1, Section 8, I believe, that says that Congress has the sole authority to enter into agreements with foreign nations. Those would include treaties, trade agreements, and the like. The executive is only able to negotiate. So, actually, Ms. Peterson, today the president can negotiate with anybody that he wants to or his administration wants to, but it's only Congress that can agree to the deal. So what trade promotion authority is, trade promotion authority is not giving the president anything. Trade promotion authority is actually Congress exercising its constitutional authority over trade by telling the administration through the black letter of the law, this is what you can and can't do. This is what we expect from you. This is who must be involved in the negotiations, and this is how you will communicate with Congress. By the way, if you don't meet these benchmarks of the law, then you will lose the ability to negotiate with whoever it is. By the way, if, the next step is, if you do meet all the benchmarks, it doesn't mean that the deal is done. You still have to come back to Congress. Congress will have to approve it, or it's possible that Congress might say, no, this is not a good deal. Trade promotion authority really is the legislation that allows Congress to exercise its authority over trade, and keep in mind, Ms. Peterson, the president is already flouting his authority in this, actually flouting the rule of law in this area as well, because it was reported just within the last week that he is doing executive orders on trade issues with foreign countries. So, he once again ignores the rule of law and acts like a monarch as opposed to allowing the legislative process to work, which, from my perspective and hopefully from yours, makes it even more important that we get this done soon so that we can rein in this executive and make sure that the system at least operates while he's still there, the way our founders intended.

This transcript was independently produced by MN-06 Watch for accountability and archival purposes.

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