



# Rep. Tom Emmer on Fox News: End redundant study and save thousands of Minnesota jobs

Fox News Channel

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**MIKE:**

Well, tonight there is some news as it relates to mining, and joining me from the great state of Minnesota, Republican Congressman Tom Emmer. Congressman Emmer, tell me about the news as it relates to mining communities like you have in northern Minnesota.

**REP. TOM EMMER:**

Well, first off, I've got to tell you, northern Minnesota is Trump country. President Trump is the first Republican candidate for president to win northern Minnesota since before the Great Depression. What happened under the Obama administration, last day that President Obama was leaving, literally the last day, they tried to kill two potential leases for mining opportunities in northern Minnesota, and they started a study to withdraw some 234,000 acres from any future exploration or potential development, which, this would be huge in Minnesota because you're talking 5,000 potential mining jobs, not to mention the 12,000 construction jobs that you would have if someone actually proposed a mine on one of these two leases. Now, thanks to President Trump and his administration, the Department of the Interior has announced they are renewing the two leases that President Obama tried to kill, but we still have the study that's ongoing with the Forest Service that the president needs to end. That study's been going on for 17 months. It needs to be done so that they can get to the business of exploring whether or not the great people of Minnesota can mine the largest copper-nickel deposit in the world. So what the president has done with his administration, one, is revitalize the opportunity for mining in northern Minnesota. Now, we've got to follow through. They've got to end the study, get the leases finalized, and grow not only wealth, but protect our precious minerals that, look, if we have to go get them somewhere else, this is a national security threat. So, the president has done amazing things so far, they've just got to close the loop on this and make sure that not only are the leases renewed, but the study is ended so we can get on with the business of exploration and hopefully someday development.

**MIKE:**

Congressman Tom Emmer, thanks for your time.

**REP. TOM EMMER:**

Thank you, Mike. Pleasure, sir.

**MIKE:**

So, Shannon, this evening there's some good news for mining communities in northern Minnesota and elsewhere across the country. Back to you, Shannon.



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