



Rep. Tom Emmer on House Committee Hearing

Broadcast: October 22, 2021 • Duration: 3:28

****COMMITTEE CHAIR:**

** Mr. Emmer is recognized for five minutes.

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Thank you, Chairman. And thank you to our panel of witnesses today. Unfortunately, if your government worked, you would not have to be here. So I'm sorry that you all have to come before the committee to plead your cause because the majorities in Congress cannot craft legislation that actually serves the American people. On that note, I'd like to point out that we've had over 30 housing hearings on the committee since Democrats took control. I believe this is our ninth housing hearing this year. And as we talk and talk and talk, well, we talk about housing. Americans continue to suffer. To date, about \$7.7 billion of the \$46.5 billion Congress has allocated for emergency rental assistance has actually been distributed. That's pitiful, and it's wrong. Republicans have offered a solution. The Renters Protection Act would cut the bureaucratic red tape and get rental assistance to the families who need it most. But Democrats are focused, unfortunately, on passing a massive partisan spending bill with little to no government oversight. As you know, the first rental assistance program passed in December of 2020. That program gave the Treasury Inspector General the authority to conduct oversight of the distribution of funds and recoup funds that are used fraudulently. For every dollar allocated to the Inspectors General to oversee government spending, Inspectors General return approximately \$16 in savings. These are savings that can actually be returned to Americans. Interestingly, the second emergency rental assistance program passed in March by Democrats is not overseen by the Inspector General. I offered an amendment to fix this last month during the markup, which was rejected by Democrats. So as Democrats focus on passing a \$3.5 trillion big government socialist spending bill, just know that this bill has little to no oversight mechanism and will lead to significant waste, fraud, and abuse. This Democrat legislating or failure to legislate extends far beyond just housing. Care spending sprees, not even designed to target those most in need, are driving inflation in this country like we haven't seen in 30 years. We see rising prices at the grocery store, rising prices at the pump. Again, levels of inflation that we haven't seen in decades. And it's entirely because Democrats are spending our constituents' money faster than ever before. Democrats simply have never learned that you cannot spend your way to prosperity. When we spend taxpayer dollars, we must do so thoughtfully, not frivolously. We must craft programs that work, not programs that leave Americans suffering and unable to pay rent. I cannot emphasize this enough. We must be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. I am disappointed by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have prioritized massive government spending that simply left Americans to endure government incompetence and rapidly increasing inflation. I yield back the remainder of my time.



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

Source: (October 22, 2021)

Archived: February 06, 2026

Source URL: https://youtu.be/h64Q6b_b6w8

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