



Rep. Tom Emmer on MORNINGS WITH MARIA – JANUARY 5, 2026

FOX BUSINESS NETWORK

Broadcast: January 05, 2026 • Location: REMOTE • Duration: 8:09

HOST (MARIA):

Joining me now is Minnesota Congressman and House Majority Whip Tom Emmer. Congressman, good to see you this morning. Thanks very much. As we watch Maduro being transported from Brooklyn to Manhattan to face the arraignment at 12:00 p.m. Eastern, your reaction?

REP. TOM EMMER:

It's a great day quite frankly. Maria, you talk about the extraction of Maduro. Actually, it was the extradition of a illegitimate leader, someone who stole an election, was not the legitimate president of Venezuela. And it's amazing that the Trump administration has the courage because of their leader. Donald Trump is the president of peace and what he's doing is stabilizing the region. Americans are safer today. The region is safer today, the Western Hemisphere because of the action that the Trump administration took the other night. Maduro is going to be indicted. You hear more outrage, Maria, from Democrats in this country than you do from Venezuelans. Venezuelans seem to be not reacting in a negative way to the fact that this brutal dictator, this ally to our enemies, Iran, China, Russia, this ally to the cartels, he is finally going to face justice. And it's about time.

HOST (MARIA):

Well, I mean, the audacity and the swiftness and the success of President Trump and this administration in terms of affecting change is just extraordinary. What do you want to look at and see in terms of the short and long-term political and economic changes in Venezuela? And how do you expect the US to be managing its oil facilities?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, I'll leave the Trump administration to make those decisions, but personally, as a member of Congress, as the majority whip, Maria, this is about the Venezuelan people. This is about Americans. This is about the people in all the surrounding countries in the Western Hemisphere. Literally what the Trump administration has done by bringing this dictator, this thug to justice is he's thrown a wrench in the activities of the cartels, shipping fentanyl into this country that has killed hundreds of thousands of Americans. He's thrown a wrench into the activities of China and Iran and Russia in terms of infiltrating the Western Hemisphere and actually conducting operations against the United States of America and American citizens. So, what I want to see is Maduro face the justice that he should have faced long ago and see the United States help Venezuela and the Venezuelan people realize their own wealth and their own future.

HOST (MARIA):

What about this vote later today, later this week in terms of trying to stop President Trump, clip his wings that is being led by Chuck Schumer?



****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Well, Chuck Schumer is a Yeah, Chuck Schumer is kind of a joke of a leader at this point. This is really nothing about nothing. They're going to have a little fun with the War Powers Act. They can bloiate all they want. At the end of the day, this was a law enforcement action. Maria, this is where the United States of America went in and extradited much like we did years ago with Noriega in Panama. They went and extradiated a drug kingpin. Someone who was the facilitator of the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Americans and they're bringing him to justice. And the result is the Venezuelan people are now going to be able to return. Hopefully, they'll get stability and they can have a leader that they actually want and one that helps them realize their full potential.

****HOST (MARIA):**

** All right, let me switch gears and ask you about Minnesota because Minnesota Governor Tim Waltz is holding a news conference later today regarding what his office is saying is quote unquote news of the day. But there are reports swirling this morning, Congressman, that he could withdraw from his 2026 re-election bid. And you know why Walls is under massive fire over Minnesota's multi-billion dollar fraud. The Small Business Administration has suspended nearly 7,000 Minnesota borrowers over a suspected \$400 million pandemic loan fraud. The Trump administration also freezing child care payments after those viral videos alleged fraud, giving state officials until next week to provide data or risk losing federal money. Congressman, what is your reaction to what has taken place here as we've seen video after video of all of these quote unquote daycare centers where people cannot find any children? Meanwhile, these quote unquote daycare centers have been receiving federal money now for how long, Maria?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** We've been trying to sound the alarm on this fraud for over 3 years. It was being investigated even 10 years ago. You had daycare, Somali daycare fraud that was being investigated in 2017 and 18 when Tim Walls, who is currently our governor, unfortunately, and Keith Ellison, who's our attorney general, came into authority back after the 2018 election, Ellison announced that internally that he was not going to have any more investigations involving the Somali community without his express approval. Guess what? under their watch, \$250 million, largest pandemic fraud case in the country. Housing fraud that's totaled 161 million since just 2020. You've got 80 autism centers under investigation. You've got child care centers that you refer to that involve these videos that you saw with no children. The estimate by the US attorney's office in Minnesota is that the fraud could total as much as \$9 billion under Tim Wall's watch. And this guy, while all the fraud has been swirling around him, he's posting pictures of his cat saying happy cater. He's doing Tik Tok videos about what you wear when you go out running in the cold. This guy is completely absent. He's been a terrible fraud of a leader. It's not just the fraud that's happened under his watch, but he's been a fraud of a leader. And I think we'll find out today if finally his own party has said, "You're too toxic to even consider running." He actually should resign at this point, Maria. We'll see what he says in this press conference.

****HOST (MARIA):**

** But I want to I want to reiterate what we're looking at on the screen next to you Congressman because we are watching Nicholas Maduro and his wife being transported to a New York City courtroom. These are DEA agents walking Maduro and his wife onto now from the helicopter to a bus to go to the New York City courtroom to get arraigned at 12:00 p.m. this afternoon in New York City. This is going to be something to watch as Maduro is going to get indicted. Meanwhile, the Senate returns to Washington today. The House in session tomorrow. Both chambers facing a tight legislative calendar, Congressman, ahead of this January 30th funding deadline. You've got what? You've passed three of the 12 required appropriations bills so far. You've got nine



appropriations bills to be completed or you could actually face another shutdown by your colleagues on the left. Congressman, what are your expectations here?

****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Well, first off, Maria, you've got all the Republicans and a small group of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle that do not want to see another shutdown, which is a good thing. Both sides agreed to a top line, that is the budget number before Christmas. That's also a great sign. I'm told that five or six of the bills are essentially done already and the other ones just need some final details. I expect that we're going to start moving those appropriations bills as soon as this week. And as they start moving through the process, the goal would be to have them done honor before the deadline, which is midnight of January 30th.

HOST (MARIA):

All right, Congressman, we're going to be watching all of that. I know you've got a full plate. Thanks so much for being here this morning, Congressman. We'll be watching your work.

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

Source: FOX BUSINESS NETWORK (January 05, 2026)

Archived: February 02, 2026

Source URL: https://youtu.be/XWAr1LQMyzg?si=kLNU_Kegcjl5irLL

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