



Rep. Tom Emmer on THE HUGH HEWITT SHOW – 2025

SALEM NEWS CHANNEL

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HOST (HUGH):

Congressman Tom Emmer is the Republican Whip, the third-ranking member of the House of Representatives Majority Party, and the House of Representatives Majority Party, and I've been talking to Congressman Emmer's district for 25 years, Minnesota's 6th. I get both ends, I get St. Cloud and the Twin Cities in your district, Congressman. I'm always glad to have you on, we'll talk to them. You're beloved in Minnesota's 6th. Congratulations first on holding the line on the shutdown. Did you get any static in the district about that?

REP. TOM EMMER:

No. No, in fact, I think most of the people that I was hearing from, Hugh, have seen Republicans fold their tent and go home before the game is over way too often, so they were... What I'm getting now is, man, thank you! You guys finally did something! You finally held the line, and they got nothing! And that's true, they got nothing, but it was... The problem is, Hugh, nobody wins in these shutdowns. The Democrats should have read the book on federal government shutdowns, because Republicans wrote it. You cannot leverage your policy agenda from the minority by shutting down the federal government. At the end of the day, all they did was hurt a lot of Americans.

HOST (HUGH):

Well, I thank you for holding the line. I know that there was a lot of legacy media criticizing the Republicans, but you did what you should have done, and I appreciate it. Next question. We have another deadline now, January 30th. The appropriations process could avoid that. Do you think we'll get through the appropriations process so we don't have to do this dance again?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, Hugh, I've known you now for many years, and you know where I come from. I've got a coaching background. If I were to tell you I don't know that, then I wouldn't be doing my job. Yes, we are going to get this done. We've got a January 30th deadline. The Democrats blew 43 days with their needless, ridiculous shutdown, but you saw right away when we passed that bill to reopen the government, we also passed three of the 12 appropriations bills at the same time. I'm told you've got another three to six that are almost buttoned up and ready to go. The appropriations chair, Tom Cole from Oklahoma, is somebody that I count on when he tells me something, I believe it, and he tells me that he thinks he can get 10 of the 12 done in short order, and then it'll come down to the end, which is usually, I'm not saying this is what's going to happen, but it's usually the labor bill, labor and transportation, and the, I'm sorry, Labor H, and Labor and Health, and the Defense Appropriations Act. Sorry about that. Mouthful.

HOST (HUGH):

Yeah, that's the biggest bill, and it's got the most direction as well, and the most money, so I'm not surprised that's going to be last. So Congressman, I want to ask you about two political things. First, my buddy Nick



Anderson will shoot me if I don't say, hey, how's the AM radio and every car act doing?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I'd say it should have been law already, Nick, wherever you are, it should have been already. I think the prospects are very strong. Like I said, it should have been done already. As Nick knows, there is huge support here in not only the House, but in the Senate to get that done.

HOST (HUGH):

All right, more importantly, far more importantly, yesterday, two judges in Texas threw out the map that was going to be offset by the California redistricting. Is the House GOP going to appeal that? Do we expect to win that on appeal?

REP. TOM EMMER:

So the Texas Attorney General is going to be appealing that. The House was not involved in it, even though the redistricting map involved the U.S. House districts, Hugh. And so your listeners know, in case they haven't read about it, it was a three-judge panel. It was an Obama-appointed judge, it was a Trump-appointed judge, and it was George W. Bush appointee. The George W. Bush appointee ruled that the maps were fine, and the other two, the Trump judge sided with the Obama judge and ruled that they're not. So now they're waiting for the written opinion, especially from the George W. Bush-appointed jurist, because I'm told that he's one of the most well-respected jurists in Texas. So look for that to, once that comes out, I understand the Attorney General in Texas has already said he's going to be appealing the decision. We'll see where that goes.

HOST (HUGH):

Yeah, Congressman, we can't take politics out of redistricting. It's impossible. We can do one person, one vote, and Baker v. Carr and Reynolds v. Sims did that, and that's fine. And we can't use race, and we know that, although the court might throw out what remains of the Voting Rights Act this term. But it's a silly game to try and get politics out of redistricting. What's your opinion on this? Are we going to end up with red states redistricted red and blue states redistricted blue? Because I think that's where we're heading.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, I mean, so first off, I think that the line that you use, Hugh, about you're not going to get politics out of redistricting, that's like some of the guys that I work with here in Congress who say, well, I'm not interested in the politics. I'm just interested in the politics. Guess what? Politics is involved in everything that we do every day, every decision we make, every relationship we have. Politics is a fact of life. And when it comes to redistricting, you're right to say, look, the Democrats have been much better at this than Republicans over the past 10 to 15 years with Obama and Eric Holder running their program that, you know, we were losing cases in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. You remember Republicans are a little late to the game, but Republicans are actually trying to make sure that these maps reflect the actual population. I mean, if you look in the middle of of Illinois, Bobby Rush's old district literally was like a mile in width at one place. It went like a straight line across the middle of the top of the state. So they've been doing this for a long time. Both sides, I would argue. And we shouldn't say it's Republican Democrat. It really is. What's the majority in your state? They are going to draw a map that they believe best reflects what that population is and how they protect their majority. And that's just a fact of life.

HOST (HUGH):



So an exit question with Emmer, how do you feel about holding on to the House, assuming that there is no bubble that burst? Well, it's not just the AI bubble, there's a lot of stuff that is not necessarily within our control view, but I do believe I'm still bullish. Why? Because the mechanics are with us.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Unlike 2018, when we lost like 40 members, we were defending over 20 of our members who were in seats that Hillary Clinton had won in the 2016 election. This time, we only have three of our members in seats that Kamala Harris won. And by comparison, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have 11 of their members. This is without redistricting. They have 11 of their members in seats that Donald Trump won in the last election. And Hugh, again, on the mechanics of it, Donald Trump moved the needle with traditional Democrat voters more than anyone we have ever seen in our lifetime. More young voters voted for him. More working men and women voted for him. Black voters, Asian voters, Hispanic voters, even liberal Jews. He grew up with all of these different voting blocs. Those people did not just become Republicans overnight. But what Donald Trump has done is he has made them more willing to consider a Republican candidate for office. So I feel great about where we're at mechanically. What we're going to have to wait for is next summer. If what we did this summer, tax policy, if that has us growing, the economy growing by the spring, the summer, the fall, we're in a great place, Hugh.

HOST (HUGH):

Congressman Tom Emmer, keep coming back. Always good to see you, Congressman. I appreciate it. And to all of our friends up in Minnesota cold, we like to keep you well represented on the radio. Thank you, Minnesota 6. Keep sending us congressmen like Tom Emmer throughout that entire state. We'd be better off.

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