



Rep. Tom Emmer on THE JAKE UNDERWOOD SHOW – FEBRUARY 2, 2026

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JAKE UNDERWOOD:

Max Miller or if we have Tom Emmer. It looks like we do have Tom Emmer. So we're going to go ahead and go to him and I'm honored because there's a lot going on. So I'm excited to talk to him. Of course, we're going to speak with Tom Emmer. He is the House Majority Whip. He's about to be a real busy guy. We'd like to welcome him to the show now. Sir, thank you for your time today.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Great to be with you, Jake. I hope it's just as warm where you are as where we are.

JAKE UNDERWOOD:

Yeah. Well, what's the temperature like where you're at?

REP. TOM EMMER:

It was 18 this morning. Although, Jake, you got to tell me something. I don't understand when I look at the weather app why it's got to tell me it feels like eight. I mean, what does it matter?

JAKE UNDERWOOD:

You know, I guess it's to make us feel better when we walk outside and when the wind hits our face. That's the only thing I can think of because right now it says it's eight, but it feels like negative four. So, the way that I like to justify it is I go, "Well, with wind chill, it's negative four."

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, don't worry. These self-proclaimed experts that predict our weather every day on the local news, they'll tell you how to dress. Don't worry, you'll be fine.

JAKE UNDERWOOD:

That's really funny because you're spot on with that. That's really good. So, I got to ask you, I mean, there's nothing eventful going on at all for you, huh? I mean, you're pretty relaxed week so far.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I mean, we did our job. It's pretty amazing. Jake, if you look at it, the House is busy taking back the power of the purse, which we really haven't exercised our authority over the purse strings for 30 years, I would argue, in this place long before I got here. We passed all 12 appropriations bills out of the House a week before the deadline that was created when we came out of the Democrats—the Schumer record shutdown of 43 days that accomplished absolutely nothing except delay—and we got it all done and then it



went over to the Senate. And I got to tell you, these guys, they passed every bill except for the Homeland Security Bill, which they put a two weeks CR on that the White House agreed to so they can negotiate more. But Jake, it's much ado about nothing. We funded ICE through 2029. We put \$30 billion into President Trump's big beautiful bill, also known as the Working Families Tax Cut. We did that last July. So they're funded through 2029. So what is this about? Well, there's \$10 billion in the bill that they want to negotiate with. Jake, that's money for unaccompanied minor children. You remember this problem under the Biden administration where all these kids were coming across the border and they were releasing them within the span of about a week to people that they didn't even know who they were and they lost most of these kids. They don't even know where they are and the poor kids are probably trafficked and abused. The Trump administration is trying to solve that problem. So these guys—these guys being the Democrats—because Democrats in the Senate, Schumer reached this agreement, and Hakeem Jeffries, who is the weakest leader I think we've ever seen. This guy wants to now hold TSA, Customs and Border Patrol, FEMA, the Coast Guard, the American people hostage yet again for what, Jake? It's just insanity, but we'll get it done.

JAKE UNDERWOOD:

Well, and we now have Congressman Max Miller joining us. We were having some problems with our phones, but we got them now. So, we have both the House Majority Whip and of course your local Congressman. We're speaking, of course, with Max Miller. So, I want to thank both of you for making time because, you know, as we were just speaking about with Tom—it's going to be a busy week. Yes. Yeah. Tom Emmer, it's going to be a busy week. I knew your last name. I am sorry. But so let me ask—well, really because we talked about what's going on and how it's all been kind of held up—and just for the listeners if they're just tuning in, you know, we've talked about public safety, we've talked about immigration, we've talked about spending, and now with the government shutdown, do you believe that Congress has lost public trust when it comes to deadlines and accountability?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, if that's for me—and by the way, Max Miller is a workhorse and I'm sure all of his constituents know it—but if you're asking me, I think yes, over the last 30 years with the never-ending refrain of CR after CR and end-of-the-year omnibus, which is just a garbage bill, an ominous bill because it holds all of these Christmas tree things that we can't afford. And frankly, we don't need. So the fact that this Congress started to take back that authority, Jake, I think is the beginning of rebuilding the credibility. Unfortunately, Democrats now—their new MO is to obstruct and take hostages. And that's what they're doing again here.

JAKE UNDERWOOD:

And so, Congressman Miller, let me ask you from your perspective, what do you think the holdup is? Because we've seen back and forth and it seems to—you make progress and then it goes away. What do you think the holdup is?

REP. MAX MILLER:

Yeah, absolutely. And Jake, thanks for having me on. I just want to say really quickly, having Whip Emmer on is an honor. I mean, you're talking to one of the toughest guys within Congress. And, you know, I like to call him the coach because when he speaks, people listen. And when you have that command presence, if we had more people like Whip Emmer within our conference, a lot more would get done. But getting right to it here, Jake, is that you already have a Democrat Senate in the minority that is backing this TR-DHS appropriations coming back down to the House, right? And now you have a progressive wing of the entire Democrat party run by Hakeem Jeffries who is obstructing this. Since I woke up this morning, I saw that two senior members of the



Democrat party, one who's on his way out, Steny Hoyer—you know, a good man—and another one, Jim Clyburn, right? Representative Clyburn is the one who made Joe Biden the nominee of the Democrat party and essentially has a lot of sway within the Congressional Black Caucus and he is encouraging Hakeem Jeffries to play ball and to be pragmatic. So when it comes down to it right now, you have a Congress that is full within the House of progressive left-wing maniacs who are continuing to push an agenda that even Senate Democrats don't agree with at this point. So really, Republicans have our affairs in order. We are locked solid. We got this out of the House. It's got back down from the Senate. We'll get it out of the House, no problem, as Whip Emmer said. But this is a Democrat problem and this is a fight within themselves that they have to figure out. The American people see this for what it is—that Republicans are holding up their end of the deal, that we passed our 12 appropriations bills, and that we are here to do our job and serve and to hit timelines. And as of late, we have hit them. And even this—you know, I hate to say it—but this falls on the Senate and the Republican Senate for not being able to get this done when the Speaker of the House and everyone sends them a package.

JAKE UNDERWOOD:

Well, and you know, that's the most frustrating part because we're sitting here and we're hearing, you know, we always hear about compromise, compromise, compromise. And you know, Congressman Miller, you've done a great job with doing that. You've talked to people on both sides of the aisle and you voted ways that some people rip you for it. And then, you know, it usually always makes sense when you're like, "Well, the reason why"—you know, so the first thing I go to is with the subsidies where you're going, "Well, there was nothing to replace it with. Why would I repeal something when there's nothing to replace it with?" And when you're able to kind of justify it that way, people go, "Oh, okay. That makes sense." But Congressman Emmer, let me ask you, why do you think this is happening with the Democrats? Why are we grandstanding? And why are they not trying to get things done?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, listen, Jake, just think about this. They have no message. They have no real leader. They're on the wrong side of every 80-20 issue in the country. For some reason, they still think biological boys should be competing with biological girls in sports. For some reason they think socialism sells. And the list goes on and on. And let's be clear, they're using the term ICE, the Immigration Customs Enforcement agents, in replacement of federal law enforcement. Why? Because this is just the same darn thing that they were doing a few years ago with defund the police. This is the Democrats' "defund the police" point 2. And I would argue this is the Marxist socialist Democrat wing of the party that's doing that, and it's not going to work. So what Max was talking about is so right. I mean our left-wing mainstream media tries to glorify and give these guys a platform. But the vast majority of Americans, you know, who just want to live their lives, raise their families, you know, have a better future for their kids, they get the game here. And that's what Donald Trump broke in the last election when 77 million people voted for a new direction. And guess what? Max and I and Republicans in the House and the Senate and Donald J. Trump have been providing that. We're going to continue to do that. And Democrats have nothing but obstruction in response.

JAKE UNDERWOOD:

Well, and you know, it was the affordability. It's making America great again. And a part of the affordability—I personally believe it's because fraud's going crazy—that affordability is becoming more and more difficult for average Americans. And Congressman Emmer, you just introduced the SCAM bill. It stops citizens abuse and misrepresentation. What problems are you trying to solve with that bill?



REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, the Immigration and Nationalization Act is a federal law that right now, you know, there are allegations that a certain member of my delegation might have committed marriage fraud to get around the immigration laws with a member of her family. If that's true, the current law, Jake, would say that she can be denaturalized and returned to her country of origin. This bill would expand and clarify that same act to include if someone is naturalized, becomes a U.S. citizen—it's a great honor when you come to the greatest country, free country that the world has ever known to become a U.S. citizen—and if within 10 years of becoming a citizen you are engaged in an aggravated felony, you are engaged in espionage, you are engaged in work with a foreign terrorist group, you can be denaturalized. That's what this law says. In addition to marriage fraud, you should be able to be denaturalized and we should be able to send you home.

JAKE UNDERWOOD:

Well, yeah. The quote is "Give me your tired, your poor," not "give me your criminals and whoever doesn't want to conform to the American way." You know, if you come to America, you should want to live like an American and that's what makes the country great. Congressman Miller, let me ask you because, you know, we're talking about enforcement and just everything that's going on with ICE and different things. Is there a possible way to enforce immigration law humanely without rewarding the people who break it?

REP. MAX MILLER:

Absolutely. And you know, Jake, you and I talked about this topic last week, right? And you know, Whip Emmer comes from the state where a lot of attention has focused in Minneapolis, Minnesota, but look what Whip Emmer has to deal with within his own state. And I brought this up last week. You have almost every Democrat leader within his state pushing out that ICE is Gestapo, that they're Nazis. And you know, we had this conversation and I said, you know, if these people truly believe that ICE agents are actively Nazis, then they believe they're doing a good thing in stopping them because their leaders like Governor Walz, their lieutenant governor, Peggy whatever her last name is—doesn't matter—Illhan Omar and so many of them and Jacob Frey the mayor continue to go out there and continue to say "make ICE uncomfortable in our cities. Push them out. Do whatever you can to obstruct them" to make sure that they aren't going after pedophiles, rapists, and criminals who are out on our streets. And that's who these people for the vast majority are protecting every single day. When we talk about going after this humanely, you know, I think we covered this, but one in every four deportations are coming out of Texas and they're coming out of Florida. How many stories and tragic incidences do we see coming out of Florida and Texas versus Minnesota and Minneapolis, Minnesota? You don't. Why? Because you have good governors like Governor DeSantis and Governor Abbott and here in the state of Ohio, Governor DeWine who are out there who are going to help federal law enforcement engage with local law enforcement to have the communication coordination to make sure everything will roll, will flow and run safe. What has happened and the procedures that ICE are doing where these incidents are happening—they're happening in LA, they're happening in Minneapolis. And that's not by accident. That's rhetoric and that is complete crap that is being thrown by dangerous governors like Tim Walz and Gavin Newsom and the rest of it.

JAKE UNDERWOOD:

And Congressman Emmer, let me ask you because you're going to be more familiar with that state than anybody else on this phone call. So why—not so much from the leadership position but the people that are in the towns, the people like in Minneapolis that are going along with the rhetoric. Why is there such a stronghold for that kind of attitude towards ICE?



REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, first off, I appreciate Max Miller pointing out that we're not having the same problem in any other state. There's a specific reason why it's happening in Minnesota, Jake, and that is our leadership who Max correctly pointed out—our failed governor. I mean, the guy who oversaw allegedly \$9 billion in taxpayer money being bilked out of his administration over the last seven years. He was circling the drain when the first incident occurred and he's been all over that ever since because it takes attention off his fraud issue. It's our attorney general Keith Ellison who is an anti-cop guy. He's an Antifa guy. He's a Louis Farrakhan disciple. It's Jacob "Small Fry," the mayor of Minneapolis who is just a very immature leader. And here's the issue in Minnesota. The attorney general and the governor have made it clear to all the police chiefs and all of the sheriffs that they cannot cooperate with federal law enforcement. Specifically, if they pick up a rapist, a murderer, a drug dealer, another known criminal who is an illegal alien, they are not allowed to hold that person in their jail. They're being threatened with lawsuits, which would expend taxpayer funds. They're not allowed to hold that person until an ICE representative can get there to pick them up. They have to release them back into the community. And that is the issue. If they would just allow for this cooperation—which is why Tom Homan is there. He's talking to all of them trying to get some movement. All you got to do to settle down the situation in Minnesota is let local law enforcement do the job that they do every day. And when they pick up somebody who should not be on the street—I mean, you should see these deportations. Anybody who is listening to this program should go to the Homeland Security website and see in your state and my state and every other state, they're posting every day a list of the worst of the worst that they're pulling off the streets. You're talking about pedophiles. You're talking about rapists and murderers in my state. These guys have had deportation orders dating back to 2006.

JAKE UNDERWOOD:

Wow.

REP. TOM EMMER:

And Tim Walz and Keith Ellison and all—they want them to roam free on our streets. They are more worried about protecting the criminals than they are about the taxpaying citizens. And then you ask me why do good Minnesotans let this go? They don't. The people you are seeing on the TV, those are not reflective of the Minnesota population. That is a group of people that are already anarchists that live in Minneapolis and it's people that are coming in from outside of our state that have been invited by Tim Walz and Keith Ellison. The vast majority of my state—you talk to somebody outside the metro and they say, "Thank you. Tell President Trump we really appreciate the fact that he has sent federal law enforcement that he's trying to make our communities more safe." The only complaint they have is the actual application, the work of ICE as they're doing this. But I don't know how else they can until they get cooperation from the local authorities.

JAKE UNDERWOOD:

Well, and that's the craziest part because, you know, you brought up Tom Homan and it's so funny because I talk to people and I have a pretty good relationship with the young Republicans out here and I'll talk to some of them and they're like, "Well, I don't understand why they can't do it like they did during the Obama administration." And I'm like, you know, it's actually really funny you say that because the same guys in charge that was in charge during the Obama administration. So, it's the fact that they don't want to go along with it. They don't want to follow the rules and that's where the holdup is and that's why we're seeing everything out of control the way that it is. But they have to be aggressive because if they're not, it's just going to get more and more out of control. And Congressman Emmer, if you could—I don't know—because the way that it comes off with these professional agitators, because that's what they've turned into. It's like they believe that they're vigilantes like they're Batman and they're actually going in there and they're the Dark Knight and they're going



to save everything and it's just the complete opposite and it's just taking down everything in Minneapolis and it's just going deeper and deeper and deeper into the rabbit hole.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, I hope Cash Patel is investigating who is paying for this because these are paid agitators and protesters that have come in from outside of our state. Are there local anarchists involved with them? Absolutely. I mean, do they for whatever reason bring loaded weapons and two clips that are loaded to protests and physically assault officers? Yeah, they do. But the vast majority of this is being generated by somebody—I mean you look at it—you got water and coffee for these guys, right? Who's doing that, Jake? Who's supporting this when the vast majority of my state—again, go to our secretary of state's website, the Minnesota secretary of state, look at the 2024 presidential election map—you will see a state that is all red with the exception of a blue dot in Minneapolis and St. Paul and that is where this problem is. And you've got Tim Walz and these guys literally—it is all based on their hatred of Donald Trump. They do not want any success for Donald Trump which they don't seem to understand. They need to put that aside because this is about the American people and in my case—I love my state—it's about Minnesotans and our communities and our kids.

JAKE UNDERWOOD:

And Congressman Miller, let me ask you because I mean we hear a lot about it with the different things with ICE. Are you hearing anything from voters here in Ohio? Are they concerned about ICE? Do you see it becoming kind of a similar situation? Because we do have the protests. None of them have turned violent or anything like that. But what are you hearing from Ohio voters about this?

REP. MAX MILLER:

Yeah. I mean, look, Jake, you hear concerns, but I think more so than anything else, I mean, if you look at where we are in the seventh district of Ohio, northeast Ohio, we don't really have any ICE. Did an interview earlier in the week with another individual and even the mayor of Cleveland has said that there are no ICE sightings or confirmed ICE sightings. Sadly, I believe the vast majority of this is truly fear-mongering and the Democrats, this is what they continue to do—fearmonger. And look, I just want to say what happened to Mr. Paye was tragic as I said on your show just the other week. But what Democrats have done in my opinion is they have taken a tragedy like Mr. Paye and they have used it and they are weaponizing it right now in order to shut down the federal government in such a way, right? Or they've taken it to embolden their position. I fundamentally believe that if that tragic incident never would have happened that every single Democrat would have voted the package that we sent them out of the House, that we wouldn't be here having this conversation when it comes to it. But the vast majority of people are fear-mongering. And if you look at the rhetoric that our governor has put out—and Mike DeWine—he's had very pragmatic rhetoric. Look, he respectfully agrees or disagrees with what the administration is doing, but he is going to have local law enforcement be helpful if they do come to Springfield, which we don't know yet. But for the vast majority of it, this is what my constituents are worried about, Jake. They're worried about the cost of goods, right? They're worried about how they're going to continue to pay their mortgage, their car notes, and they're going to see more money back in their pocket because of the working families tax cut plan that we've passed by doubling the standard deduction which 93% of our constituents use. So, these are the issues that I really hear about every day. And for the individuals who continue to call our office, we literally have a list of the same people because it's the same people who call every single day and we interact with them and we talk with them respectfully. But out in the real world of Cuyahoga and Medina and Wayne and Holmes counties—and soon to be Ashland in our district for next term—they're worried about the cost of goods. They're worried about their safety. These are the things that they care about and these are the things that I'm going to address, including healthcare.



JAKE UNDERWOOD:

Well, Congressman Emmer, Congressman Miller, excuse me. You know, best of luck this week. You guys are going to have a busy week. And keep fighting the good fight. That's the best thing about especially both of you, is that there are a lot of people in Congress—and we can name names, but I'm not going to—that you could tell they're there for a paycheck, and they don't really care. They're just going with the flow. But you two are two people that fight not only for the people in your district, but people all over the country. And I want to thank you for your time today and just tell you continue fighting the good fight.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Thanks man. Don't underestimate Donald Trump and don't underestimate the Republican Congress. Thanks Max.

REP. MAX MILLER:

Thank you both.

JAKE UNDERWOOD:

Thank you. Really appreciate it.

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