



Rep. Tom Emmer on This Week on Capitol Hill – January 18, 2026

Podcast

Broadcast: January 18, 2026 • Location: Remote • Duration: 8:35

HOST (TONY):

Well, as we continue to examine the situation in Minneapolis, President Trump said that he is prepared to halt federal funding to sanctuary cities beginning in February. These are cities which are facilitating the breaking of federal law. Joining me now to discuss this, Congressman Tom Emmer, who serves as the House whip, the majority whip. He's also on the House Committee on Financial Services in the House of Representatives. He is the representative for the sixth congressional district of the state of Minnesota. Congressman Emmer, welcome to this week on Capitol Hill. Thanks so much for joining us.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Good to be with you, Tony.

HOST (TONY):

You know, your state's in the headlines almost every day with what's happening up there. President now saying that he is considering the leverage of federal funding to these states and cities that call themselves sanctuary cities which are essentially facilitating the breaking of federal law. Your response?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, we've been talking about this for years. And the president, you know, he's talking about this, he's talking about other things. But we got to go to the reason why, Tony, which is you've got federal law enforcement agents in every state in the union. And that includes immigrations and customs enforcement agents in every state. It's pretty amazing when you think about the fact that the president and the federal government are not having to surge resources to places like Virginia where the same activities are taking place or the state of Florida or the state of Texas or Utah. But Minnesota, why? Because Tim Walz, I think he thinks he's the 21st century version of Jefferson Davis. He literally is telling because of his hatred of Donald J. Trump, he's telling people to fight the federal government. That insanity has to end. Things will calm down immediately as soon as they start to cooperate. In the meantime, if you're going to harbor some of the worst of the worst, and Tony, I should send you a list, just a snapshot. I mean, they're pulling out rapists, murderers, some of the most awful people you can imagine. By the way, I saw one that was a murderer that's had a deportation order in place since 2002. These are the people that Tim Walz and company are allowing to run on their streets free and they're trying to obstruct the federal government from doing its job to protect American citizens and their property. So I totally understand where the president's coming from and I know he will use every tool at his disposal to make sure that the public is protected from these very bad people.

HOST (TONY):



Now, Congressman Emmer, you serve, as I mentioned, on the financial services, so you're tracking these things, where the money goes that you can usually see corruption surrounding it. Is this I mean, it's beyond Minnesota. Is this in the blue states where we have lax oversight and we have government that just, you know, government leaders that, you know, really don't care.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, it's not just really don't care. How many of them are complicit? I'm going to tell you in my state, we only have 5.7 million residents in the entire state of Minnesota. Tony, to give people an understanding of why I say only 5.7, the population of Houston, Texas has more residents than the state of Minnesota. And yet apparently over the last seven years Tim Walz and company have allowed almost they say it could go as high as \$9 billion of money to be fraudulently milked out of Minnesota. So you can say they don't care or Tony we better find out are they complicit. I mean we got housing fraud.

HOST (TONY):

You think this is a criminal conspiracy?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I think ultimately somebody's got to be held responsible for the oversight of this money. And you don't let a billion dollars plus go out without somebody knowing, Tony. And it starts in Minnesota, but get ready. It's going to go to California. There they have 40 million people. How big a number do you think that's going to be? It's going to go to New York. It's going to go to Illinois. These things have been going on for years. And until we got Donald J. Trump in the White House and he said, "We're done with this." He's got his all-star cabinet in Minnesota. There are 10 of them right now working Minnesota Tony and I mean I'll give you one. Scott Turner from HUD has uncovered up to \$84 million of HUD money that was fraudulently sucked out of Minnesota which included I mean this is amazing a half a million dollars almost for 509 dead tenants.

HOST (TONY):

Right. I talked to Secretary Turner earlier this week about this. One of the questions I have, Congressman Emmer, is this a part of the government going beyond what it should be doing in terms of its essential functions that we've just we've grown government so big that it just attracts corruption?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, you and I would agree on that. I mean, the government is supposed to have a very limited involvement. the federal government. It's supposed to protect the citizens and their property, supposed to protect the country from outside adversaries. It's not supposed to be in the business of all these other social programs. But like it or not, this was created long before you and I came to the scene. And now, what we're finding, and I think the American public's going to realize, is that you've got fraudsters, whether they're the Somali fraudsters that I've got to deal with in Minnesota or they're Eastern European or you name your community, they are now looking at these programs that were created because Americans are generous. Americans want to take care of their neighbors who are unable to take care of themselves. But these people see an opportunity to prey upon that generosity. And in my state, they've been doing it in growing, I mean, huge terms. Suitcases of cash, Tony, reportedly going out of the Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport back to Somalia and Dubai and other places. This is insane. And yes, it is because the federal government has expanded its reach in areas that it was never intended to be in.

HOST (TONY):



I hope that there are case studies done on Minnesota following this. when you combine the immigration lax immigration policies and the overreach of federal funding when it comes to these social programs. You serve as I mentioned on the financial services this week a lot of controversy over the president and his confrontation with the Federal Reserve even Wall Street speaking back on this. Are you concerned that we may be losing the independence of the Federal Reserve?

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

Source: Podcast (January 18, 2026)

Archived: February 02, 2026

Source URL: https://youtu.be/q_P2IBAJTvl?si=RWiivjWq5P7fkeVS

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