

Rep. Tom Emmer on Kudlow

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DAVID:

Thank you very much, Madison Allworth. For more on this, let's bring in House Majority Whip Tom Emmer from Minnesota. Great to see you, Congressman. Thanks for being here. So I'm wondering how you deal with this pushback, particularly. I mean, what is most unnerving is that a lot of it does come from China. We've seen we've seen the roll out of their propaganda campaign against a data centers. And you hear some of the same stuff coming directly from China. How do you push back politically? Because the polls are clear that the propaganda against these centers is working.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Yeah, David, thanks for having me. We're going to have to do a lot more of this. Education is going to be the key. Look, we live in the technology age, the age of digital data centers are absolutely necessary if you're going to succeed and grow. And in this case, Kyrsten Sinema, the former senator, talking about the Chinese and their misinformation, the Chinese would love to see us stop building data centers. They would love to win the battle when it comes to this. So we do believe in local control, but it's going to be about information. I'll give you an example because it fits with your previous report before you brought me on. I have a city in my district who had a hearing on a data center. A resident stood up and said we should never allow a data center in this city because it will change the city forever. And the mayor at the time said, well, actually, we've had one in this city already for more than a decade. So people have to understand what this really is. They have to understand what the truth is. And we do need to make sure that it's local control, because if Congress gets in the way, guess what? More bureaucratic red tape from government does what, David? It slows and eventually stops innovation.

DAVID:

Yeah, always. And by the way, this is it's almost identical to the kind of rhetoric we heard 20 years ago against the frackers. Remember that a lot of it dealt with water issues. A lot of it dealt with seismic issues concerning the ground shaking, et cetera, most of which turned out to be completely false. I mean, some of it was and you could tweak it, you know, as as a lot of communities did. But the wealth and I mean, imagine what America today would be like without fracking. We certainly would not be a net exporter of energy in this country as we are now. Think of how the folks in the Middle East would be able to take advantage of us as much as they're doing now. They could do much worse damage if if we if it wasn't for fracking here in the United States and elsewhere also.

REP. TOM EMMER:

That's absolutely right. And it is eerily similar, which gets me to thinking about the bigger issue that we have going on here. We are very proud of our First Amendment rights and our freedom of speech. But our adversaries and those who are trying to eliminate their competition can use that against us with the misinformation that you heard the former senator talking about, that this uses so much water when in fact it

doesn't. This uses so much power when in fact it doesn't. The truth is, at some point it will create so many efficiencies that the power issue will actually improve. So this is going to be the key. We've got to understand that our adversaries and those who want to eliminate their competition are always going to be doing this in the marketplace. That's why I'm so grateful for the report that you're putting on today. We've got to do a lot more of this so that the American public, which they are smart and we need to keep this locally, but they need to get the correct information and understand what this really is and why it's so important, not just to their local community. Think about this, David. A data center in your town today is like putting a train depot in your town back in the 1800s. I mean, if you if you have one person, guess what, the business is coming through your town. If you don't have one, you're going to be watching.

DAVID:

Well, the president, I don't know if he's going to talk about this on the campaign trail because it's it's a little bit of kryptonite right now. Maybe he'll wait until after the midterms. But he's already begun to talk about it, about the value that you just mentioned of these data centers. Here's a little bit of President Trump talking about it. Roll it. They're going to build their own electric producing facility and that electricity that they have left over is going to the grid. It's going to lower the cost of electricity. So if I were a community, I would want the data center. It means jobs, it means income and it means lower taxes. Now, is he going to bring that message out on the campaign trail or is it too hard right now?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I listen, Donald Trump is like no other, David. I mean, you got other politicians out there doing what politicians do. I think this president understands that leadership is not leading people to where they already are. It's leading them to where they need to be. And on this case, he understands exactly who the enemies of our innovation are. There it's a national defense issue as much as it's an economic issue. I don't expect Donald Trump ever to be quiet about something that puts America and Americans first.

DAVID:

House Majority Whip Tom Emmer, thank you so much for being here. Have a great weekend.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Appreciate it. You, too, David.

DAVID:

All right. Well, coming.

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