

President Obama delivered his first address as President to a joint session of Congress yesterday. Congressman Pence's response after the speech was widely reported, a few are below:

[WTHR \(Channel 13 in Indianapolis\)](#) :

"There isn't a small business or family farm in Indiana that isn't cutting expenses and finding a way to make ends meet during these difficult economic times. They want to see Congress doing that as well," said Rep. Mike Pence (R-Indiana). [AFP](#) :

Congressman Michael Pence from Indiana, welcomed "the president's new-found optimism about the American economy."

However "as a House Republican I think raising taxes in a time of recession is precisely the wrong thing to do for this economy," he told reporters.

[Boston Globe](#) :

And last night, Capitol Hill Republicans were muted in any criticism of the president. "We welcome the optimistic tone the president struck. We have a crisis in our economy, but we also have a crisis of confidence," said Representative Mike Pence of Indiana, chairman of the House Republican Conference.

But Obama's ambitious agenda "suggests there is going to be a lot of room for debate in the next few months, and the debate is going to be in the details," Pence said after the speech.

[Human Events](#) :

Mike Pence (R-Ind.), chairman of the House Republican Conference, told me, "I was heartened by the President's newfound optimism about the American economy. There is nothing quite as encouraging to the American people as having the American President come to the well of Congress and remind us that we're Americans, we'll get through this. I also appreciate the President's call for fiscal discipline, but it was somewhat contradicted by a long laundry list of liberal spending priorities in areas like healthcare, education and energy. So there'll be lots of opportunities for debate on those issues in the weeks and months ahead. Again we welcome the President's call for fiscal discipline but it would be helpful to see the President begin to

articulate the kind of budget changes and the kind of budget discipline that would make that a reality here on Capitol Hill."

"I also was struck by what we didn't hear," Pence continued. "Number one, I think you'll hear House Republicans overwhelmingly oppose any effort to raise taxes on the American people in a time of recession. More than half of the American people that pay taxes at or above the level the President announced tonight are small business owners who file individual tax returns. Raising taxes on small businesses is precisely the wrong prescription for recovery in an ailing economy. Secondly on that long list of energy priorities I didn't hear the words domestic drilling. While greater conservation is important and efficiency is important, alternative sources of energy are important they are no substituted for giving the American people more access to American oil. The President's failure to mention an expansion of our own domestic exploration for oil and natural gas was a glaring omission."