

Congressman Pence penned [the following op-ed](#) in the *Fort Wayne News-Sentinel* to mark Tax Day:

There is a movement afoot, sweeping across America and through the heartland. As momentum builds and support grows, a rallying cry is sounding throughout our nation's communities and around our kitchen tables. In unison, the American people are declaring, "Enough is enough."

It's no mystery that the current tax code is excessively burdensome and maddeningly complex - and today is the day of reckoning, when millions of Hoosiers and Americans nationwide file their taxes. As Hoosier working families and small businesses are counting the precious dollars that are flowing from their pocketbooks to the treasury, they are also making the tough sacrifices and frugal choices that will see them through these challenging economic times.

Imagine the frustration that these same Hoosiers feel when they hear that the president's budget will boost government spending to the highest levels since World War II, undertake an unprecedented amount of borrowing that will double our publicly held national debt to over \$15 trillion and will increase taxes by \$1.4 trillion over the next decade, sapping our economic vitality.

There's no need to imagine that frustration any longer - it is real and stirred to action.

Today, I join Hoosiers in my hometown of Columbus to protest wasteful, runaway federal spending and the taxes that will be levied to fund it. It is a cry that hearkens back to an ideal at the very core of our national heritage - that good government ought to "leave men free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement and shall not take from the mouth of labor and bread it has earned."

Quite simply, the tax increases in the president's budget will do more than simply take - they will destroy.

The president promised he would not raise taxes "one single dime" on 95 percent of Americans, because he would raise taxes only on couples earning more than \$250,000 and individuals earning more than \$200,000. While that might sound reasonable to some, the reality is that the majority of small businesses file taxes under the individual tax code, and thus the majority of those hit by the president's income tax increase are small businesses. Small businesses are the engine of our economy. Increasing taxes on those that produce 60 percent to 80 percent of new jobs in our country is not a prescription for recovery, it's a prescription for economic decline.

As if hindering job creation was not enough, this administration also seems intent on taxing Hoosiers for simply using energy. Also contained in the president's budget is an energy proposal known as "cap and trade," which would cap greenhouse gas emissions from regulated entities and require businesses to purchase permits or "allowances" for their emissions. This costly mandate on businesses would be passed on to consumers, and studies show the average household would be saddled with up to \$3,100 in added energy costs per year - further depleting the taxpayer's bank account, but also causing even more job loss.

The president's budget simply taxes too much. It's not just the taxes on small businesses and energy consumers - there are taxes on capital gains and dividends that would discourage investment during a recession when new investments are precisely what will jump-start our economy. It also revives the death tax, which has been shown to have broad economic effects and is responsible for lowering overall employment by 1.5 million jobs over the past 10 years, according to one study.

It is clear this administration's economic plans include tax increases of every stripe, but even these new taxes won't cover the cost of the proposed spending, and Hoosiers have had it. They know that we can't spend and tax our way back to a growing economy.

The Hoosiers I know and have met with are frustrated because while they are rising to meet these challenging economic times with frugality, sacrifice and discipline, Washington is poised to ramp up government spending - and with it the taxes of every single working family, small business and family farm. At a time when we can ill afford it, the government's budget should not be growing faster than the family budget.

As taxpayers all across America and Indiana continue to band together to protest the ever-increasing tax burden and the failed policies of wasteful spending, I am renewed in my commitment to fight for tax relief and fiscal discipline.