

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Congressman Mike Pence addressed the Latino Coalition Economic Summit today on the issue of job creation. The following are key excerpts from his speech:

"We've had good fellowship among people who believe in the American dream. But I think we recognize that as we gather, millions of Americans are hurting and millions of families are struggling. Some 15 million Americans are unemployed. Maybe as many have given up looking for work. It has to be heart-breaking to members of the Latino Coalition that while unemployment is at 8.2 percent in my home state of Indiana, and 9 percent nationally, it's closer to 12 percent in the Hispanic community.

"There can be no higher priority for policy makers from Washington, D.C. to the state capitals of this nation than putting America back to work...we've been spending a good part of the beginning of this year talking about putting our fiscal house in order. And make no mistake about it, reigning in our national debt, reigning in runaway federal spending, which the American people sent a deafening message to do in the 2010 elections, is directly related to growth and jobs and opportunity.

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"As the debt rises, the dollar weakens, as the dollar weakens, the cost of commodities goes up. And that immediately impacts small business owners in the city and on the farm...make no mistake about it: fiscal responsibility is directly related to growth.

"The other parts of economic growth we know. I call it S.T.A.R.T. And that is it begins with **Sound Money**.

That speaks to fiscal responsibility and reform. We've got to pass

**Tax Relief**

for working families, small businesses and family farms to put every single American back to work that wants a job. We've got to find more

**Access to American Energy Reserves**

, with an 'all of the above' strategy. We've got to pass

**Regulatory Reform**

. Government red tape is strangling American enterprise and Republicans in Congress are determined to beat back the strain of red tape on the American economy. And then we also have to do

**Trade**

. I don't need to tell anyone in this room about the importance of moving forward on the Columbia Free Trade Agreement. Trade means jobs."

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