*"Our nation deserves a strategy for prosperity, not more spending, more taxes and more unemployment."*

**WASHINGTON, DC** - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence made the following statement in reaction to the **Labor Department** 's announcement today that the unemployment rate rose to 9.5 percent and that 467,000 jobs were lost over the last month:

**"At a time when families are struggling to make ends meet, the rising unemployment rate is further evidence that we cannot borrow and spend and bail our way back to a growing economy.**

**"More than four months after the economic stimulus was signed into law, our country still faces the highest unemployment in almost three decades.**

**"Sadly, Democrats' answer to near record unemployment is runaway federal spending and a national energy tax that will increase the cost of energy on every household in the country and cost millions of American jobs.**

**"Congress should be doing what every American family is doing during these tough economic times: cutting expenses, and making sacrifices.**

**"Instead, Washington is pushing for more spending, more debt and higher taxes, all on the backs of our nation's taxpayers.**

**"Our nation deserves a strategy for prosperity, not more spending, more taxes and more unemployment."**