*TALKS ABOUT PRESIDENT'S SMALL BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY*

**Washington, Mar 16** - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence released the following statement after meeting with small business leaders at the

Congressman Pence addressing small business leaders in Anderson, IN

Flagship Enterprise Center in Anderson, IN:

**"These are tough economic times, and small businesses are hurting. The President announced steps that are designed to aid small businesses in Indiana and nationwide. However, increasing taxes during a recession is the last thing small businesses need right now-yet that is precisely what the President's budget would do. If the President truly wants to help small business, the engine of the Hoosier economy, he could start by not raising their taxes to begin with.**

**"Small businesses across Eastern Indiana are making the tough choices necessary to making it through these tough times-Washington should do the same."**

NOTE: In 2010, the President's budget will increase taxes on all taxpayers that earn more than $250,000. The majority of the burden for this $637 billion tax increase will be borne by small businesses that pay taxes as individuals. Small businesses create 60 to 80 percent of all new jobs in America. These new taxes will stifle Hoosier job creation and economic growth in the midst of a recession.