

Bigger Government Is Not The Answer

During these challenging economic times, Hoosier families and small businesses are making the necessary sacrifices every day to make ends meet. They know that our economy is in a recession and that to make it through, we will need to tighten our belts, and make some hard choices.

The federal government-Congress in particular-ought to do the same.

Inside Washington, DC, at the White House and in the halls of Congress, there has been a lot of talk about fiscal responsibility, sacrifice and making prudent decisions to lift this nation out of economic tailspin. Well, it's time for Congress to put our money where their mouth is. We must be willing to come together to work across party lines to make the critical choices that will put our fiscal house in order.

But the reality of the actions of Congress is a far cry from its rhetoric. Instead of fiscal restraint, this Congress has been the archetype of wasteful spending and rather than tough choices, this body seems more interested in a spending free-for-all.

Hardly a week after passing a \$1 trillion so-called 'stimulus' bill, Congress passed another huge spending bill totaling \$410 billion-complete with several thousand earmarks. And the next day, the Administration unveiled their budget, which would raise taxes on almost every Hoosier. Indiana's hard-working small businesses, family farms, middle class families, retirees and energy consumers will all be hit hard by the President's tax increases.

Raising taxes in a recession is not a strategy for recovery. Out-of-control government spending is not the cure to what ails our economy and it will not get Hoosiers back to work.

All throughout Indiana, everywhere I go, Hoosiers are rising up and saying 'enough is enough.' They know that we cannot tax and spend our way back to prosperity. Instead, the excessive deficit spending only ensures that future generations of Hoosiers-our children and grandchildren-will be burdened by unsustainable debt.

I believe that Congress should immediately freeze all federal spending at existing levels, instead of increasing the federal budget by eight percent as the omnibus spending bill would mandate. Congress should do what every Hoosier family and small business is doing in the midst of this recession-finding places where we can save, holding the line on expenses and not allowing wasteful spending.

Hoosiers know that the way out of these tough times will be principled courage in doing what history has shown will strengthen the foundations upon which our prosperity was built. As we move forward, those time-honored truths will be what I fight for. The vitality of our economy and

the security of our future require nothing less.