

## Hoosiers Deserve A Real Economic Recovery Plan

*By: Mike Pence*

During these difficult economic times, Indiana families are hurting in the city and on the farm. The latest numbers are in, and they paint a bleak picture of the economic landscape. Unemployment nationwide is now 9.4%, while Indiana is at 10.6%. It is a devastating reality that is affecting everyone. Although this week we saw a small dip in the unemployment rate, it still remains at a 26-year high as we deal with the worst recession in a quarter-century. Americans rightly expect their elected leaders to come together to find solutions and get this nation back on track to creating jobs and opportunities for our families.

Earlier this year, this Administration told us that we needed to borrow nearly a trillion dollars from future generations for a stimulus bill that would create jobs "immediately" and keep unemployment below 8% nationally. I noted at the time that, although taking a trillion dollars and spreading it around the economy might have some positive effect, the only thing the stimulus bill was sure to stimulate was more government and more debt. Sadly, those predictions have proven to be largely correct.

Since this ill-advised, \$1 trillion "stimulus" bill was enacted in February, we have lost more than 2 million jobs nationwide, over 21,000 jobs in Indiana and unemployment continues to remain at unacceptable levels. Hoosiers are right to be skeptical of claims that the stimulus is working, when so many of their friends and neighbors are still looking for work and while many who are still employed have been forced to accept pay cuts and less hours.

By any objective measure, the stimulus isn't working, but this Administration continues to contend that it has "done its job" and that America needs to continue to "spend money to keep from going bankrupt." Even as the President came back to Elkhart this week where unemployment is at 16.8% to announce a handful of welcome federal grants for green Indiana businesses, it's clear that Washington is ill-equipped to engineer a fiscal resurrection on its own.

As the hollow promises of "stimulus" have faded, many Hoosiers are asking the bottom-line question: "where are the jobs?"

During these tough times, as I travel throughout Indiana, two things are clear: Hoosiers are

resilient and most Hoosiers know that we can't borrow and spend and bail our way back to a growing economy. The determination and common sense expressed by hundreds of my constituents at each of my town hall meetings in the past week have confirmed my faith in the strength and judgment of our people. In fact, I believe that the few glimmers of hope we are seeing in our economy are due to the hard work, fiscal discipline and creativity of our small businesses, not the handouts and bailouts of Washington, D.C.

Hoosier families know the reality of spending long nights at the kitchen table searching for ways to make ends meet. The people of Indiana deserve a government that is as good as they are, a government willing to make the hard choices necessary to get this economy moving again.

It is high time that we recognize the stimulus is not working as promised. Success should not be measured based upon a slower rate of economic decline, but upon economic growth and long-term job creation. Hoosiers deserve a real plan for a real recovery, not more spending, more taxes, more debt, and more unemployment.

The recovery plan I have supported from the beginning would have created twice the jobs at half the cost of the stimulus bill. Our legislation would have provided resources for roads and bridges and provided immediate tax relief for every Indiana family and enterprise this year.

Congress and this Administration should come together and enact the kind of stimulus that has historically helped "all ships to rise." The real solution to our economic woes is fiscal discipline in Washington, D.C. and fast-acting tax relief. The people of Indiana deserve a recovery plan that will unlock the entrepreneurial energy that has made this country great, empowering working families, small businesses and family farms to chart their own course to fiscal health. We can do better. Let's demand that Washington D.C. get to work on solutions that will help Hoosiers get back to work.