



November 8, 2009

[MIKE PENCE: Cap-and-trade plan would kill jobs, raise energy costs](#)

By MIKE PENCE

I read with great interest the Oct. 24 Associated Press story that cites an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) analysis claiming that proposed cap-and-tax legislation would cost a typical family \$100 per year in additional energy costs.

A more thorough analysis of the nearly thousand page piece of legislation shows that such a cap-and-tax scheme will increase energy costs and kill jobs, especially for Hoosiers already facing record unemployment numbers.

Independent analyses predict that the enactment of such legislation will put tens of thousands of Hoosiers out of work as manufacturers will be forced to ship jobs overseas to countries like China and India with less stringent regulations. The bill itself acknowledges as much when it establishes a "Climate Change Worker Adjustment Assistance" program, which would provide government assistance to any worker displaced by the reckless climate change regulations contained in the legislation.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office concurred regarding the chilling effect that the cap-and-tax bill would have when its director, Doug Elmendorf, testified recently before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. Elmendorf stated that the nation's economic growth would slow over the next few decades due to this draconian climate change legislation.

The EPA's analysis also stands at odds with President Obama, a fervent supporter of the House-passed version of cap-and-tax.

Then-candidate Obama stated that should such legislation be enacted into law, "electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket." By some estimates, higher energy prices will cost American families thousands of dollars each year. Hoosiers deserve to know that Indiana would be one of the hardest hit states in the nation because 94 percent of our energy comes from fossil fuels like coal. This would amount to nothing more than a national energy tax, which would have a devastating effect on a Hoosier economy still reeling from economic recession.

This plan, crafted with the intention of ushering in new clean technologies for energy independence, simply does more harm than good.

The costs resulting from this legislation will only serve to push unemployment rates up even further as small businesses, factories and family farms will be forced to cut jobs and even close their doors for good. Those businesses and factories that survive will do so only by passing their increased energy costs onto consumers, forcing them to bear a bigger financial burden. Not only that, but as businesses ship more good-paying jobs to countries with less regulation, we will have effectively shipped pollution to another part of the world.

We must work to protect our environment while still promoting economic growth and job creation. Now is not the time to impose an energy plan that would raise energy costs for every consumer and taxpayer. A national energy tax does not have to accompany our commitment to be good stewards of our Earth.

I believe the best way forward is to utilize an "all of the above" energy strategy, like the American Energy Act. This plan, developed by the American Energy Solutions Group, allows American workers to produce American energy; all while promoting greater efficiency, conservation, as well as the development and use of alternative fuels and safe, clean nuclear

energy. Through such a plan, we can create jobs, grow our ailing economy and finally put our nation on the path to energy independence.