



[Providing Small Business Owners with Certainty](#)

By Rep. Mike Pence

Unemployment in Indiana is at 10.2 percent, and higher in many eastern Indiana counties. Families are hurting in the city and on the farm.

Hoosier families I talk with are anxious about this economy. They are concerned about runaway spending in Washington. Most of all, they are worried about jobs.

In Indiana and across the country, we need more good-paying jobs. We need Washington to foster a climate in which small businesses have the opportunity to innovate and to expand.

Instead, the opposite is happening. Job creators are discouraged, confused and waiting to see what Washington will do next.

I recently had the opportunity to sit down with more than 50 small business owners from across eastern Indiana. As I listened to the folks at that meeting, one word kept popping up: uncertainty. Job creator after job creator said that uncertainty in Washington is affecting the decision-making process in the private sector. Small business owners are unsure of what Washington will do next, and rather than take on new payroll or expand operations they decide to stick with the status quo.

These job creators expressed in clear terms that the problem with our economy is not a shortage of ideas, individuals with dreams or would-be entrepreneurs. The problem is that looming tax hikes, increasing regulation, escalating government intervention, and skyrocketing debt have created widespread uncertainty, limited available credit, and effectively frozen investment and hiring.

The American people know that at our core we are a country built and sustained by risk-taking entrepreneurs whose pioneering ideas and hard work forged a nation of economic prosperity. We need to get back to an approach that will bring certainty to our economy and encourage the kind of investment that will put America back to work.

To start, we need to get spending under control. Massive government spending has failed to alleviate our economic woes. Instead, it has intensified them. Since President Obama took office, 3.6 million Americans have lost their jobs.

In that same period of time, Washington Democrats have spent nearly \$5.6 trillion – \$292 billion per month. A \$1.3 trillion annual budget this year and a \$13 trillion national debt with no plan to bring spending under control are crowding out private investment and impeding economic growth.

Additionally, Democrats are poised, in the midst of that spending spree, to allow what could be the largest tax increase in American history to take effect on January 1, 2011. Unless Congress takes action before years end, taxes will increase by \$3.8 trillion next year. Small business owners are concerned about whether taxes are going to go up on January 1, and by how much they may increase.

Instead of job-killing tax hikes, the American people want a new approach that focuses on job creation and gets runaway federal spending under control.

Today, uncertainty is the enemy of our prosperity in America. It is time to give job creators the stability they need to usher in a new era of economic growth in America.