

**Washington, DC** – U.S. Congressman Mike Pence today made the following statement on the House floor in opposition to an amendment that would eliminate the engine competition for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. Video of the speech is available [here](#) .

**“I rise in opposition to the efforts to eliminate the engine competition for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.**

**“In the interest of full disclosure, let me say how proud I am of the more than 4,000 Hoosier employees of Rolls-Royce, which worked to develop this engine. But that’s not why I am here.**

**“I am here because I really do believe, as the Heritage Foundation has cited, that the essential choice before us today is competition or sole source contracting.□ Either we can require two companies to engage in head-to-head competition each year for the next 30 years, or we can give one company a sole source contract worth \$100 billion for the next 30 years.□**

**“Which do you think is more in the interest of taxpayers? Oppose this amendment.”**

Background:

The amendment to the FY2011 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R.5136) would eliminate the F136 alternate engine being designed for the F-35. Development of the F136 engine is a joint venture between Indianapolis-based Rolls-Royce and General Electric. Development began in 1996 and today is more than 70 percent complete.

Rolls-Royce is the second largest manufacturer in Indianapolis and employs around 4,300 people in Indianapolis. A loss of funding for the F136 program puts hundreds of jobs at risk around Indiana, including 150 positions at Rolls-Royce in Indianapolis.

The non-partisan Government Accountability Office found that a similar engine competition using two interchangeable engines from two separate manufacturers on the F-16 Falcon in the 1980’s yielded savings of 21 percent in overall lifecycle costs.