Legislation would end *de facto* drilling moratorium and provide relief at the pump for Hoosiers

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Congressman Mike Pence voted today in support of H.R. 1230, the Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act, which would reverse the Obama Administration's blocking of oil and natural gas lease sales. The bill passed the House 266-149.

"With a gallon of gas costing more than $4 in Indiana, it is painfully clear that we need to produce more of our own energy here at home and this legislation will do just that," Pence said.

"The pain at the pump is real, and Hoosiers shouldn't have to stretch their budgets even further just to fill up their tank when we can produce American energy that will provide the United States with the independence we need while creating jobs and driving down costs."

Background

The Federal Government develops five-year plans to determine where and when offshore leasing and energy production will occur. The current five-year plan (2007-2012) included a lease sale off the Virginia Coast in 2011, two Gulf of Mexico lease sales in 2011, and another Gulf of Mexico lease sale to take place in 2012. By delaying and cancelling these lease sales, the Obama Administration is blocking American energy production, preventing American job creation and forfeiting much-needed revenue that could be used to pay down the national debt.