Congressman Pence hosted the first district town hall meeting of 2009 today in Muncie. As the *Star Press* reports, the topic on everyone's mind was the state of the economy and what the government should or should not do.

Pence, who has opposed bailouts for banks and the auto industry, said he would be willing to support loans to the states for infrastructure and other needs.

"We cannot allow the stimulus bill to be a vehicle for pork barrel spending," Pence said.

Pence, recently elected chairman of the House Republican Conference, agreed Congress needed to act, but in a way that was both "effective and fiscally responsible."

New jobs will come by encouraging investment in small business and family farms, the congressman said.

The article in its entirety is available **HERE** .