



JOBS AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

“Made in Indiana”

With unemployment remaining high near 10 percent, Americans and Hoosiers cannot afford a jobless recovery, which is occurring under the failed leadership of the current administration and Congress. The failed policies of tax and spend liberalism are delaying our economy’s recovery efforts as more and more Americans are either losing their jobs or not able to find work.

Uncertainty in the business community is preventing businesses from hiring new employees and investing their capital in the global economy. Confidence is at an all-time low as businesses are scared to operate in the current environment. Record deficits, out of control spending, unwanted healthcare, and higher taxes are all factors leading to fear within the business community.

1) HOOSIER SPECIFICS

Educating Our Work Force – One of our most promising resources in southwest Indiana is a web of great Universities and Community Colleges to help train our workforce for 21st century jobs. Whether our great public schools like Vincennes University, University of Southern Indiana or Indiana State University, or the many private colleges such as University of Evansville, DePauw University, Oakland City University or Rose Hulman Institute of Technology, or Ivy Tech's network of vocation and general education sites, Indiana's 8th Congressional District has an excellent network of higher education institutions to train hard-working Hoosiers. We all know Hoosiers can compete and win if the playing field is level. But what far fewer folks understand is that there are jobs going unfilled – high-tech mining positions, laser welding work, computer-guided medical technicians – in the region. Work force development projections show that "upskilling" Hoosiers for these high-tech jobs will grow our economy and bring unemployment levels down.

Crane Naval Warfare Center – This massive military base is not only a critical part of our nation's security, but it is also an engine for economic growth in Southwest Indiana. As your Congressional representative, I will work tirelessly to not only keep the base healthy but also to make sure the conditions exist outside the gates for private industry to flourish. This includes completing Interstate 69 from the Westgate to Interstate 64. As a former US Naval officer, I believe I can immediately make an impact for Crane and its thousands of workers and contractors in Washington, DC.

Interstate 69 Completion – While I know this is a complex and controversial topic, our State government has made the decision to move forward with this project. The route was selected to foster future economic growth in Southwest Indiana. With that decision made and construction underway, it will be my job as your federal Congressional representative to make sure we get those benefits while completing the project in the most environmentally sensitive way. After all, we pay 18.3 cents in federal gasoline tax every time we pull up to the pump, and Indiana has consistently been a donor state, paying more taxes to Washington for roads and highways than we receive back. Congress is hopelessly bogged down on its basic responsibility toward our national system of more than 42,000 miles of Interstate highways, and the reauthorization of the Highway Trust fund is pending business in Nancy Pelosi's Congress along with the budget. As a result, Indiana finds it difficult to properly plan for future construction and work so we minimize disruptions, complete the roadway promptly, and work with all communities to make sure they have efficient transportation access to keep Southwest Indiana connected to the 21st Century economy.

Energy – As the son of a coal miner, I know how essential this resource is for the nation and especially for Indiana. Our state has an abundance of coal that allows us to generate electricity at often the lowest rates in the land. The current Cap and Trade legislation will wreck Indiana's economy more than any state in the nation as we rely on coal for 94 percent of our state's electricity. This gives us a boost in attracting new jobs and investment to Indiana and it reinforces our position as a mid-country market maker in transportation and manufacturing. While some of our coal is higher in sulfur content, we have low-sulfur coal as well. And as your federal Congressional representative, I will continue to support clean-coal technology projects such as the Duke Energy's Edwardsport Coal Gasification Project. We must work towards energy independence, for both economic and national security purposes. I support new exploration for sources of oil, clean coal technology, the expanded use of nuclear energy, and solar and wind energy technology.

Unfreeze Credit Markets – Another urgent need is to bring credit back to individuals and businesses here in Indiana. Since the meltdown in the fall of 2008, Washington has handed out billions of dollars without a significant effect on the credit market or unemployment. Regulatory pressure on lenders from the Federal Government is making it difficult for all but those with the best credit

ratings to obtain a loan. Local banks and other financing companies are not able to make loans to otherwise qualified individuals and businesses. This is stifling the part of the economy which creates almost all new private sector jobs - small businesses. The housing industry is an example of a section of our economy which is drowning in the current credit climate. Across the board tax increases scheduled for January 1st, 2011 will only serve to further worsen the already critical problem. Congress must act to create certainty in the tax code and regulatory framework within which individuals and businesses can function and consumer confidence can return. Without immediate action, the current near 10 percent unemployment rate will not decline and private sector job creation will not return.

2) IMMEDIATE AND PERMANENT TAX RELIEF – The best way to stimulate the economy is by keeping hard earned money in the pockets of hard working taxpayers. I have signed the pledge to not raise taxes as your next Congressman.

Extend the 2001 and 2003 Tax Cuts Permanently – Our nation is facing the largest increase in individual income taxes in history if we do not act as the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts that are set to expire at the end of this year. By keeping individual tax rates low, it keeps hard earned money in the pockets of consumers, who, in turn, use their money to purchase products and services and invest in business, which creates real stimulus. On December 31st of this year, taxes for 88 million Americans will rise from 10 percent to 15 percent, a 50 percent increase that will be over \$500 per person on average. Also, the child exemption will be cut in half from \$1,000 to \$500 and the standard deduction will no longer be doubled for married couples. By allowing these tax cuts to expire, we are penalizing Americans for their hard work. In addition to making these cuts permanent, I would also propose reducing the lowest individual tax rates from 15 percent to 10 percent and from 10 percent to 5 percent.

Repeal the Death Tax Permanently – At the end of this year, the Death Tax will increase from 0 percent to 18 percent on all assets valued under \$10,000 and will progressively rise to 55 percent for all assets over \$1 million. This is a tax on the lifelong work of many Americans and serves a penalty for small businesses and family farms. The Death Tax is a disincentive to leave the product of one's hard work and ambition to their future generations considering the property of value has already been taxed annually.

Lower the Business Tax Rate Immediately – The cost of operating a business in America is too high. With a tax rate of 35 percent, the second highest among developed nations, many businesses are moving their operations to foreign countries to avoid our nation's high tax rates. Every day, states and local governments provide tax incentives to attract businesses and jobs to their region – the same tactics our world competitors are using to lure American jobs away. Lowering the business tax rate to 20 percent will make America's business tax

rate competitive on a global scale, and will make American businesses competitive and keep American jobs at home.

Keep Low the Capital Gains Tax Permanently – Lower capital gains taxes and taxes on dividends provide an incentive for Americans to invest their hard earned dollars in American businesses. Next year, the capital gains tax is set to rise from 15 percent to 20 percent and the tax on dividends will more than double from 15 percent to 39.6 percent. Hard working Americans should not be penalized for saving their money for retirement and not relying on the government to live out the rest of their lives.

Unemployment – Make unemployment benefits tax free.

3) BUDGET/NATIONAL DEBT

Reducing our National Debt – Our nation’s debt has grown to over \$13 trillion and continues to grow at a record setting pace with an estimated \$1.47 trillion to be added next fiscal year. This year, \$0.41 of every \$1 spent will be borrowed. In next year’s budget, over \$250 billion will be spent on interest payments on our debt. By reducing the debt, we can work to eliminate the unnecessary 12.9 percent of our annual budget that goes to these interest payments.

We cannot continue to operate at these high levels of spending. I will not allow America to become the world’s next Greece.

Cutting Frivolous Spending – I realize that many tough decisions lie ahead when it comes to spending cuts. I understand that every cut made will affect someone, somewhere. I will work to eliminate redundant programs and bureaucracies that are unnecessary for the government to provide services to its citizens. I also oppose any tax increase to support new spending.

Balancing our Nation’s Budget – I will vote to balance our nation’s budget to immediately stop saddling our children with our nation’s debt. Already, each taxpayer is responsible for over \$110,000 of our nation’s debt, a number that continues to grow under the current administration and out of control Congress. By balancing the budget, as our state mandates in its constitution, we can stop the unwanted cycle of passing the buck to future generations. It will work to prevent our government from continuing a downward spiral of spending and start our nation onto the path of recovery by reducing our nation’s debt.

End Bailouts – We must stop the government takeovers of our nation’s signature industries. First it was the banks, then autos, and now healthcare. Ever since our country’s founding, we have been the land of private enterprise and opportunity. When the government grows larger and gains control, the people and their ambition grow smaller. Government exists to help us, not harm us, and to provide an environment for business to grow naturally. We do not need the government

to attempt to grow our nation's economy through oppressive regulations and out of control spending.

As the son of a coal miner from an agriculture community of 1,400 people, I was given every opportunity to live out the American Dream. Through hard work and determination, I became a doctor – a profession that I once viewed as a dream. I will work to ensure all Americans have the same opportunities that I did, to ensure that the American Dream continues.

As a father, I can honestly say that I fear for our children's future. If we continue down this path, I dare to say that their generation will not be better off than ours, a first in our nation since the Great Depression. We must stand up to the failed policies of tax and spend liberalism and provide common sense solutions that embody what it truly means to be an American. With hard work and determination, I will work to ensure that everyone has an opportunity at the American Dream.