WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan, Florida's only member of the influential House Ways and Means Committee, said President Obama's plan to raise taxes by $1.5 trillion will stunt economic growth and kill jobs.

"The last thing we should be doing in an economic downturn is raise taxes," said Buchanan, a successful businessman for 30 years before coming to Congress in 2007. "A $1.5 trillion tax hike on job creators as we're on the brink of a double dip recession is not the answer. If we are serious about reducing unemployment and strengthening our economy, we should let people keep more of their own money and help small businesses grow, not punish them with higher taxes."

Buchanan continued, "As a businessman before coming to Congress, I know what it means to balance a budget, meet a payroll, and to exercise fiscal discipline that keeps a business moving forward. Now is not the time to put small business out of business by raising taxes and crippling their ability to create jobs."