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President agrees to Welch call for more energy efficiency in federal buildings

President Obama recently approved Rep. Welch's call to extend an executive branch program that uses private companies to make federal buildings more energy efficient at no increased cost to the taxpayer. Rep. Welch rallied 70 Democrats and 48 Republicans to sign his letter calling on Obama to extend the program. The administration announced earlier this month that the initiative will be extended through 2016. READ

MORE: <http://www.welch.house.gov/in-the-news/national-journal-white-house-to-extend-energyefficiency-initiative/>

Welch to EPA: Ethanol policy is harming Vermont's farms and small engines

Rep. Welch applauded the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision to reduce the amount of corn ethanol blended into fuel. Federal law requires the EPA to issue standards for blending ethanol into gasoline. Welch labeled the well-intentioned policy a flop due to the unintended consequences of increased food costs, increased feed costs for dairy farmers, and damaged chain saw, lawnmower and boat engines. Rep. Welch led a bipartisan letter in October, signed by 169 House colleagues, urging the EPA to adjust ethanol levels citing these harmful impacts. READ MORE: [Ethanol policy reform legislators react to EPA decision on ethanol blend requirement](#)

Working to decrease border crossing delays

At a recent Congressional hearing, Rep. Welch sharply questioned federal border officials about the NEXUS program that, in theory, expedites border crossings at the U.S.-Canadian border. Welch has heard from Vermonters about lengthy delays at the border even after they have paid a fee to participate in the expedited entry program.

The Congressman, who along with Senators Leahy and Sanders have urged the administration to allocate more resources at Vermont border crossings, demanded answers from agency officials on the delays in the NEXUS program. Long delays at the border harm the state's economy and affect the quality of life of Vermonters crossing the border regularly for family visits and recreation. READ MORE: [Rep. Welch questions agency officials on border wait times, stressing economic impact on Vermont](#)

Using technology to provide quality health care in rural America

Rep. Welch introduced bipartisan legislation to expand the use of telehealth technology in the American health care system. He announced the legislation at the Central Vermont Medical Center, where physicians demonstrated how the hospital uses technology to improve health outcomes and provide better access to care in underserved and remote communities. READ MORE: [Welch announces bipartisan telehealth legislation to improve rural care](#)

Demanding J.P.Morgan take full responsibility for its role in Wall Street meltdown

J.P. Morgan and the U.S. Justice Department recently assessed a \$13 billion penalty over J.P. Morgan's role in the near collapse of the American economy in 2008. Under current law, a portion of the settlement is tax deductible. Rep. Welch introduced legislation to close this tax loophole and called upon the company's CEO to refrain from shifting any portion of the penalty to the taxpayer. READ MORE: [Rep. Welch to J.P. Morgan: Do the right thing: Do not shift settlement costs to taxpayers.](#)

Looking back on the month of November

View Rep. Welch's November recap album on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152449437615884.1073741873.72680720883&type=1>