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# Welch works to block doubling of student loan interest rates; urges Vermonters to share student debt stories

With student loan debt topping one trillion dollars nationwide and Congress working to avoid a doubling of some student loan interest rates set for July, Rep. Welch is urging Vermonters to share their stories about student debt and college affordability on his website at <u>www.welch.house.gov/studentdebt</u>. He will bring the stories to Washington to push for policies that keep student loan interest rates low and make college more affordable for middle class families.

## Read more.

# Fighting to save White River Junction postal facility

Rep. Welch is leading a bipartisan effort urging House leaders to take up postal reform legislation that would save the White River Junction mail sorting facility. Without action by May 15th, the Postal Service will begin closing and consolidating hundreds of processing facilities and more than 2,000 post offices nationwide, including the White River Junction facility. "The Postal Service serves all Americans regardless of where they live," Welch said. "Unnecessarily closing postal facilities will undermine this vital mission, cut services to Vermonters, eliminate good middle class jobs and deal an enormous blow to rural America."

#### Read more.

## Welch kicks off post-Irene small business listening tour

Rep. Welch has been meeting with small businesses throughout Vermont to hear how federal disaster relief programs helped or failed them in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene. Over the coming weeks, Welch will continue these visits throughout the state. He will bring the feedback from these visits to the House Irene Coalition – the Welch-founded bipartisan group of lawmakers whose districts were affected by the storm – to explore ways to make disaster relief programs more efficient and effective.

Read more.

#### Protecting Vermont's dairy farmers

With Vermont's dairy farmers facing yet another perfect storm of rising production costs, dropping milk prices, and a critical dairy safety net set to expire later this year, Rep. Welch is fighting for legislation to extend and strengthen that safety net so dairy farmers get a fair price for their milk. Welch met with dairy farmers in Richmond recently to get their feedback and hear their concerns.

Read more.

#### Improving electric car infrastructure in Vermont

As gas prices continue to increase, Rep. Welch joined forces with his former 2010 opponent Paul Beaudry, in support of legislation to improve infrastructure for electric cars in Vermont. Welch is pushing a bill that will provide states with additional funds to invest in electric car charging infrastructure.

Read more.



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