Rep. Peter Welch (D-Vt.) on Monday highlighted President Obama's renewed commitment to energy efficiency following the inclusion of two key programs in his proposed budget.

The President's budget recommendations include funding for the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act (H.R. 5019), which was authored by Welch and passed by the House last May. The President also directed new funding to the Better Buildings Initiative, which mirrors Welch's Building Star Energy Efficiency Act (H.R. 5476).

Welch's statement follows:

"I applaud President Obama for recognizing the importance of investing in energy efficiency, a great way to create jobs, save homeowners and businesses money and reduce harmful carbon emissions. As too many Americans remain unemployed and too many families struggle to pay their bills, Home Star provides unique solutions to both problems. And in a time when partisan gridlock threatens most legislation, Home Star's bipartisan track record makes it an ideal solution to our nation's energy problem.