

Rep. Peter Welch issued the following statement after President Obama's speech on the future of the war in Afghanistan.

"The United States went into Afghanistan for two reasons: to bring Osama bin Laden to justice and to degrade and disrupt al Qaeda. Our military has accomplished both goals. Bin Laden is dead and there are now fewer than 100 al Qaeda in Afghanistan.

"We cannot sustain a costly nation-building strategy on a corrupt and ineffective Karzai regime. Our taxpayers are spending \$2 billion a week. All Americans know we need that money here at home.

"While the President's decision to begin bringing our troops home is a welcome step in the right direction, I will continue to urge him to bring more troops home sooner and faster."