

Congressman Peter Welch released the following statement in the wake of flooding and damage caused by Tropical Storm Irene. At approximately 12:30 today beginning at the Quechee bridge, Welch will tour damage in the Woodstock/Quechee area with Lt. Governor Phil Scott and Transportation Secretary Brian Searles. He will tour additional affected areas throughout the week.

"The devastation caused by this storm is heart-breaking. Widespread damage to personal property, businesses, and infrastructure will challenge us at a time when Vermont is still recovering from this spring's flooding.

"As in past disasters, Vermonters will meet this one head on. We will persevere.

"Special thanks to Vermont's first responders, National Guard, utilities, Red Cross, and all volunteers for their valiant and tireless efforts to assist Vermonters before, during, and now after this terrible storm. Working with Senators Leahy and Sanders, I will do everything I can to bring all available federal resources to assist Vermonters with resources, information and support in days and weeks ahead."

Welch urged Vermonters to pay close attention to all warnings and information from the Vermont Emergency Management Agency. For helpful contacts, please see www.welch.house.gov.