



The Four Winds

National Weather Service Employees Organization

Lobbying Efforts of the NWSEO

The House Appropriations Committee has Approved a Substantial Increase in NWS Funding and Rejected all Proposed Personnel Cuts

(May 29, 2019) The House Appropriations Committee has approved funding of \$1,099,549,000 for NWS operations, research and facilities for FY20. This is \$110 million more than the President requested, and \$79 million more than was appropriated for FY19 – *an increase of 7.7%*. This funding includes not less than \$20 million, and not more than \$28 million in funding “to address the backlog in facilities maintenance.”

This increase in funding was due to the lobbying efforts of NWSEO.

The Committee also rejected the Administration’s proposal to cut 355 jobs at the NWS, and once again demanded that the NWS fill all vacancies. From the Committee Report:

“The Committee remains concerned about continuing reports of staffing and management challenges within NWS. NOAA and the Department of Commerce are directed to ensure that NWS fulfills its critical mission to protect the lives and property of our Nation’s citizens, including by filling all vacancies as expeditiously as possible. . . .”

“The Committee further rejects the proposal to terminate 74 Information Technology Officers who are critical to the delivery of timely and actionable forecasts.”

“The recommendation does not adopt the proposed NWS workforce savings that would only serve to exacerbate the staffing problems noted above.”

“The Committee further rejects the proposed reduction to the Office of Water Prediction as well as the consolidation of the functions of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction, the Climate Prediction Center, and the Weather Prediction Center.”

“The Committee rejects the proposed reduction to the Tsunami Warning Program and instead provides not less than \$1,500,000 above the fiscal year 2019 level. Further, the Committee rejects the closure of any facilities related to the Tsunami Warning Program.”

The Committee also approved an increase of \$1 million in the line that funds the NOAA General Counsel’s Office, and an increase of \$1.5 million for funding NOAA’s Aircraft Operations. NWSEO represents employees in both offices. Funding for “mission services” – which includes WFMO – was also increased by \$6 million. The NESDIS Office of Satellite and Product Operations, whose employees are also represented by NWSEO, was fully funded.

The Appropriations Committee's "mark" will now be sent for approval by the full House of Representatives, and any differences with what the Senate eventually approves will be reconciled before final passage of the FY 20 Commerce Appropriations Act.

-NWSEO-

**No one cares more for National Weather Service employees than
National Weather Service employees.**

**No one works harder for National Weather Service employees than
National Weather Service employees.**

We are NWSEO.