



NWSEO President meets with Senator DeMint

On Monday, September 12th, NWSEO President Paul Greaves met with Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC) over lunch. Greaves thanked the Senator for his continued support of the NWS, its mission, and its employees.

In a statement released last week DeMint said, "After reviewing the actions taken by the National Weather Service, I am convinced that this was one of the most accurate hurricane predictions we have ever seen,"

He continued, "As early as Friday night, almost sixty hours before Katrina made landfall, the National Hurricane Center warned the region with reliable data showing the largest storm since Camille landing squarely between Louisiana and Mississippi. By Saturday night, over thirty hours before landfall, they issued a specific warning to the City of New Orleans predicting storm surge flooding of up to twenty-five feet. These early and accurate forecasts saved countless lives along the Gulf Coast."

Greaves told the Senator that the NWS employees in the Gulf coast were also personally affected by Katrina. Even though their own homes were being destroyed, these employees remained on duty issuing life saving warnings. The Senator said that he and the American public greatly appreciate this dedication to service.

DeMint, who is the Chairman of Commerce Committee's Disaster Prevention and Prediction Subcommittee, will hold a hearing next week entitled "The Lifesaving Role of Accurate Hurricane Prediction." We expect that the Senator will once again voice his support for the NWS.

At the end of the meeting Greaves expressed to the Senator NWSEO's concerns that budgetary pressures may force dangerous changes upon the agency, and asked the Senator to support full funding for the NWS. The Senator assured Greaves that he will do so.