



## NWSEO FIGHTS FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR NWS

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NWSEO has been visiting key appropriations staff members on Capitol Hill on the heels of the *Washington Post's* recent feature article on the impact of the NWS budget shortfall. NWSEO has urged the House Appropriations Committee to increase the amount designated for the NWS by \$40 million more than the President has requested. The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Science, Justice, State and Commerce will be holding hearings on Thursday, March 10 as the initial step in establishing next year's budget for the NWS and other NOAA agencies. NWSEO will have a representative in attendance.

Here's an overview of the recent amounts appropriated for NWS "operations and research" and why the amount requested this year by the Administration is insufficient:

FY '04	FY '05	FY '06 request
631, 504	617,189	652,287

- P** The NWS appropriations for operations **fell 14.3 million** between FY'04 and FY'05. When recisions and unfunded inflationary increases in the cost of operations (such as the 3.5% Federal employee pay increase) are added to this reduction, *the NWS has an operating shortfall of \$37 million FY'05.*
- P** The NWS was the only NOAA line organization whose budget was reduced by Congress in the FY'05 Omnibus Appropriations Act; every other NOAA agency received increased funding.

- P** Although the President has requested an increase of \$35 million for NWS operations in FY'06, this increase does not restore the cuts made in FY'05:
- R** \$18 million of the increase is sought to fund new programs and responsibilities, such as improvements in the Tsunami warning program (\$6 mil.); water resources forecasting (\$4 mil.) and ozone air quality forecasting (\$2 mil).
  - R** and additional \$30 million is sought for “adjustments to base” - such as the Federal employee pay increase (only partially funded) and to fund transfers to the NWS of programs from other NOAA agencies (\$11 mil).
  - R** \$13 million of the increase of \$48 million (\$18 mil. for new programs and \$30 mil. ATBs) is offset by proposed terminations - leaving an overall increase of \$35 million.
- P** Despite the \$35 million increase sought by the President’s request, *the NWS anticipates that its operational shortfall for FY'06 will be \$40 million*, which will result in further reductions in personnel and services.