
NWS NAME CHANGE REJECTED AS A RESULT OF INTENSIVE NWSEO LOBBYING

***Stop answering the phones,
“NOAA’s National Weather Service!”***

The Department of Commerce has withdrawn its request to change the name of the National Weather Service to “NOAA’s National Weather Service” in the face of Congressional opposition initiated by intense NWSEO lobbying efforts.

Earlier this year, NOAA asked for authority from the Appropriations Committees to change the NWS’ name in a reprogramming request. NWSEO leaders met with Committee members and their staff and explained how the name change would cause public confusion, and that NOAA was attempting to change the name of the NWS as a subterfuge that would allow it to raid NWS’ appropriations. Congressional leaders communicated their displeasure with the proposed name change to DOC, and the proposal was recently withdrawn.

On May 10, House Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Frank Wolf wrote to Commerce Assistant Secretary Otto Wolf to confirm that DOC was withdrawing the name change. Rep. Wolf wrote:

“The Committee understands that the Department does not intend to pursue the proposal to add the preface “NOAA’s” to the official name for each line office . . . The Committee agrees that these changes are unnecessary and that renaming could lead to confusion among users of long-standing programs and services with substantial name recognition.”

Rep. Alan Mollohan, the ranking Democrat on the House Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees the Department of Commerce, has also been a particularly outspoken opponent of the name change. Congressman Mollohan met with a dozen NWSEO leaders, and rank and file members, over breakfast on April 21 to discuss the issue of the name change and funding levels for the NWS.

“It was only through the hard work of many of our members who came to Washington to meet Members of Congress and their staff that this bad idea was finally put to rest. We thank all those involved.” said Paul Greaves, NWSEO President.

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May 10, 2005

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Mr. Otto J. Wolff
Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration
Department of Commerce
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Wolff,

This letter responds to your letter of January 21, notifying the Committee of the Department's intention to reorganize certain functions and rename certain offices within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

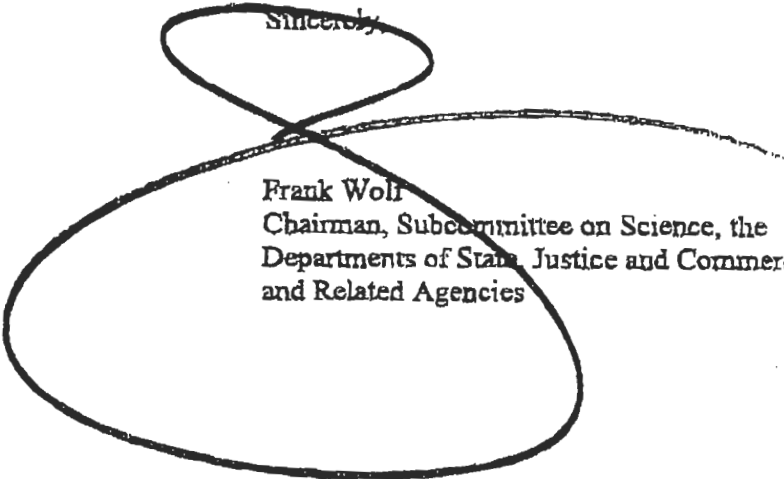
The Committee understands that the Department does not intend to pursue the proposal to add the preface "NOAA's" to the official name for each line office and for the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations. The Committee agrees that these changes are unnecessary and that renaming could lead to confusion among users of long-standing programs and services with substantial name recognition.

The Committee has no objection to the other proposed actions, including: changing the name of the Decision Coordination and Action Office; changing the name of the Office of Research and Applications in NESDIS; the establishment and renaming of several separate staff offices within the Under Secretary and Associate Offices; correcting the official title of the Under Secretary; relocating the National Marine Fisheries Service Financial Services Division to the Office of Management and Budget; elevating three National Ocean Service offices to program office status; and establishing a new regional management structure within the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

The Committee understands that these organizational changes will not involve any changes to appropriated line item funding levels, or result in any reductions-in-force or adverse actions to employees.

I appreciate your keeping the Committee informed of changes to the Department's budget and organizational plans.

Sincerely,



Frank Wolf
Chairman, Subcommittee on Science, the
Departments of State, Justice and Commerce
and Related Agencies