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NWSEO Lobbying saves ITO's and CPC and Tsunami Warning Centers

Senate Committee Slams the NWS Concerning the High Number of Vacancies

(July 27, 2017) The Senate Appropriations Committee today rejected the Administration's proposal to eliminate the ITOs and to cut the staffs of the Climate Prediction Center and Tsunami Warning Centers. The Committee approved funding NWS operations in FY 18 at 1% above this year's level and at 5% above the level requested by the Administration, rejecting each and every proposed cut to NWS operations.

The Committee also blasted the NWS for failing to fill NWS vacancies, writing:

"The Committee is very concerned with the continued number of NWS employee vacancies. Given the importance of the NWS mission to protect the lives and property of our Nation's citizens, extended vacancies are unacceptable – particularly when the Committee has provided more than adequate resources and direction to fill vacancies expeditiously for the past several years. Because NWS has failed to respond to the Committee's concerns regarding these vacancies, NOAA is directed to present a separate accounting of all NWS filled and open positions, including the length of time the positions have been unfilled, in its fiscal year 2018 spend plan. The spend plan shall also include the specific funding proposed for all NWS employees and associated expenses that are separate from other program costs.

"The Committee also recognizes that some vacant NWS positions may be redundant and invites the Department to submit a justification for eliminating redundant unfunded vacancies in its fiscal year 2019 budget request, to include a full list of positions proposed for elimination, including reasoning for each elimination. *Until such time as a plan to eliminate those vacancies is approved, NWS is directed to continue efforts to fill all vacancies as expeditiously as possible.*"

The Committee also demanded that the NWS act more expeditiously to address the critical staffing shortfall in the Alaska Region:

"Within 60 days of enactment of this act, the Committee directs NWS to provide a report on staffing cuts in the State of Alaska and how the NWS plans to maintain or improve forecasting and communication around the State, especially in the most remote areas."

-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.