



## **Thank you to the House and Senate for Recognizing the Importance of the ITO position and Importance of the NWS Mission**

(April 19, 2012) Funding for the ITOs has just been restored in the bill released by the House Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Subcommittee at this morning's "mark-up" meeting. In fact, the Subcommittee has funded the NWS at more than the President's budget request.

In his opening statement, Subcommittee Chairman Frank Wolf (R-VA) rebuked the Administration for attempting to cut the ITOs and other aspects of the NWS:

"I am also committed to making critical investments in forecasting and disaster preparedness to save lives and protect property. Some have recently stated that somehow the House Budget Resolution would result in weather forecasts becoming less accurate.

"I want to be clear: this bill funds the National Weather Service above the President's request, restoring risky personnel cuts that the administration proposed to be taken from forecast offices nationwide.

"The bill includes an increase of \$126 million for Weather Satellite acquisitions, including the full amount requested, \$916 million, for the new JPSS satellite program. This funding is necessary to better protect Americans from natural disasters, such as tornados, hurricanes and tsunamis.

"We all remember the devastation of the tsunami that struck Japan last year. This bill also rejects the administration's proposed cuts to NOAA's tsunami programs, restoring \$4.6 million for tsunami mitigation and detection buoys."

This morning, the full Senate Appropriations Committee also approved the funding bill approved earlier this week by the Senate Commerce, Justice and Science Subcommittees funding bill. As reported by NWSEO earlier this week, this bill also restores funding for the ITOs.

Funding decisions made this week by the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee are only the first stage in a long process that will lead to the ultimate adoption of funding for DOC and its agencies, and things can change along the way. NWSEO members still need to keep up their efforts to ensure that funding for the ITOs and other aspects of the NWS are restored. However, the fact that both the Republican and Democratic leadership in BOTH Houses of Congress support keeping the ITOs and oppose the Administration's efforts to cut the NWS should give us confidence that, with continued hard work, we will prevail.