



**NWSEO works to protect the ITO position
after it is eliminated from the President's Budget for the 5th year in a row.**

(April 6, 2016) The President's budget for FY17, once again, proposes to eliminate the Information Technology Officer (ITO) position. This year, the Administration seems more determined than in the past. In February, they sent a budget justification to Congress along with plans for eliminating the ITO positions. In March, NOAA sent a report to Congress entitled, ["Evolving Information Technology Service Delivery at National Weather Service Field Offices,"](#) which for the first time detailed how the NWS would transition to Readiness Teams.

NWSEO, with the help of NWS ITOs, was able to send Congress quick and comprehensive rebuttals to both reports. Many thanks to the ITOs who provided excellent detailed information regarding their jobs and explained why the NOAA report and the Administration's budget justification are not feasible plans. NWSEO Legislative Lobbyist Richard Hirn distributed more than 100 pages of ITO documentation to Congress, including senior staff members of the house and Senate Appropriation Committees in late March.

NWSEO understands the importance of the ITO position to the National Weather Service mission and is working hard to protect these jobs. The position has been eliminated from the President's budget every year since [FY2013](#). We will continue to work until we are satisfied that the position is safe every year.

NWSEO has a long history of protecting jobs. In 2010, NWSEO successfully stopped the closing of the CWSUs. This effort took many years and resulted in the CWSU Enhancement Plan, a collaboration between the NWS and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which kept all 21 Center Weather Service Units open. [NWS credited NWSEO for their active role in saving these jobs in July 2010.](#)

NWSEO successfully defeated the NWS Concept of Operations (CONOPS) plan to consolidate 122 weather forecast offices to regional centers in 2008. In [June 2015](#), NWSEO worked with members of Congress and national media in to oppose Bill S. 1573 - a plan to consolidate the 122 WFOs to 6 Regional Offices. This effort resulted in revised legislation focusing on [severe weather alerts](#).

"Sometimes, these battles are years long, but NWSEO works hard to save jobs," said NWSEO President Dan Sobien. "It is only through the efforts and support of NWSEO, your co-workers who belong to our professional organization, that we have been able to protect these positions. We are focused on saving the ITO position, and with the support of the ITOs, I believe we will be successful again."

-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.**