



Senate Appropriations Committee rejects proposal to eliminate ITOs in FY 17 Supports Idea of a REDI Teams Pilot

(April 21, 2016) The Senate Appropriations Committee, today, rejected the Administration's proposal to cut funding for NWS operations in FY 17 by more than \$12 million. The Committee approved \$991 million in funding for NWS Operations, Research and Facilities. This is \$2.4 million more than FY 16, and \$14.8 million more than requested by the Administration.

Of important significance, the Senate Appropriations Committee rejected NOAA's proposal to eliminate funding for the ITOs in FY 17. However, the Committee indicated that it would favorably approve a future request for a pilot project made up of volunteer ITOs to demonstrate a regional "REDI" team approach to providing IT services to WFOs. NWSEO cautions the reliability of such a pilot could only be conducted if ITOs are removed from the WFOs being serviced in this pilot project.

The House Appropriations Committee is expected to consider this matter during its "mark-up" of the FY 17 Department of Commerce Appropriations Act in the next few weeks. Any disagreement between the House and Senate will be resolved in a conference later this year.

You will recall, 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 REDI Teams. NWSEO, with the help of NWS ITOs, was able to send Congress a quick and comprehensive rebuttal to the report.

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 is the only organization with the ability to lobby Congress and the Administration to preserve NWS jobs, promote better working conditions and career promotions for NWS, and participate in collective bargaining. Your membership powers our professional organization.

-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.**