



Two Congressional Letters support NOAA Funding - Noting significant backlog in NWS hiring, need for Hurricane Hunter Aircraft and Satellite Operations

(March 16, 2017) In two separate letters, United States Senators express strong support of NOAA programs including the National Weather Service and National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS). Both letters are authored by senators who work regularly with NWSEO to protect the employees we represent.

A bi-partisan effort, led by Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Susan Collins (R-Maine) produced a [letter](#) to the Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney urging reconsideration of the budget cuts to NOAA stating, “Our safety rests on NOAA’s ability to collect information, generate forecasts, and issue warnings well in advance so that we can take action.”

Democratic members of the Senate Commerce Committee pointed to the dangerous and “significant backlog in hiring” in the National Weather Service in a [letter](#) to Budget Committee Chairman Senator Mike Enzi and Ranking Member Senator Bernie Sanders. The letter, authored by Ranking Member Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL), highlights concerns and recommendations regarding severe cuts in the FY 2018 budget resolution on matters within the Committee’s jurisdiction. It recommends a \$5 million increase above the baseline to address critical vacancies in the NOAA workforce.

The letter supports funding NOAA at \$270 million above the baseline for FY2018, citing the importance of polar orbiting satellites and aircraft used by NOAA Hurricane Hunters. The letter states, “Specifically, we are gravely concerned that NOAA's Gulfstream Aircraft was grounded during Hurricane Hermine reconnaissance missions for emergency corrosion repair. NOAA currently has no backup capability for this aircraft which provides public safety data. Senator Nelson has filed legislation to ensure that this single point of failure is addressed.”

-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.