



**Florida Representative Charlie Crist Cites GAO Report
In Concerns about Understaffed NWS Offices in Letter to President Trump**

(June 28, 2017) One month into Hurricane Season, U.S. Representative Charlie Crist addressed the high vacancy rate in the National Weather Service in a letter to President Trump. Congressman Crist commends the important work of NWS employees and expresses his hopes that the next NOAA Administrator will address the Agency's high vacancy rate. He cites high fatigue and low morale among NWS employees noted in the Government Accountability Office's report on NWS understaffing.

Below is an excerpt from [Congressman Crist's letter](#):

"I would also like to commend the work performed by the NWS field offices, including the office located in Ruskin, Florida near my District. These offices fill a critical link between national weather prediction and local preparedness; and I am a strong supporter of the men and women who tirelessly staff them — many of whom work off-hours and overnight shifts. In light of the recent Government Accountability Office report showing that NWS meteorologist vacancies are growing and "employees are fatigued and morale is low," it is my hope that the next NOAA Administrator will take a hard look at this issue and move in an appropriate direction to correct it. Fatigued employees mean less accurate predictions. Less accurate predictions mean more lives at risk during severe weather events."

Representative Crist will be a guest speaker at the 2017 Annual NWSEO Convention at the [Vinoy Renaissance Resort, St. Petersburg, Florida](#) on September 18 – 19. The Congressman is one of the three Democratic members of the House Science Committee's Subcommittee on the Environment, which has jurisdiction over the "dry NOAA" including the National Weather Service.

-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.**