



The Four Winds

National Weather Service Employees Organization

Administration Proposes billion-dollar Cuts to NOAA, *including \$92 million and 355 jobs at NWS -* House Appropriations Committee Calls Cuts “unbelievable.”

(March 29, 2019) The Trump Administration has once again proposed to cut 248 forecasters and 74 ITOs, and to close one of the two Tsunami Warning Centers as part of its FY 2020 budget request to Congress. Rep. Jose Serrano (D-NY), the Chair of the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Subcommittee told Acting NOAA Administrator Dr. Neil Jacobs that he has a “hard time taking this budget proposal seriously” and that it was “not thought through completely” at a hearing held Wednesday morning, March 27. Committee Member Rep. Ed Case (D-HI) particularly criticized the proposal to close the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC). Dr. Jacobs did not deny the PTWC was the center on the chopping block, although it was not specifically identified as the center to be closed in the budget request. Rep. Case told Dr. Jacobs that the Administration’s budget proposal was “unbelievable.”

Chairman Serrano asked Dr. Jacobs why the Administration was proposing to eliminate another 248 forecasters while forecasters are currently required to work overtime without compensation to cover shifts, because they have hit the premium pay cap. Dr. Jacobs sidestepped the question and claimed that hiring at the NWS outpaces attrition. (According to records supplied to NWSEO by the NWS, there were 30 fewer non-supervisory, non-managerial personnel on board in January 2019 than in December 2017).

Chairman Serrano closed the hearing by saying that “when we see a budget proposal like this, it worries us.”

Remember, NWS management works for the Administration and as such will do what they are told to do, cut. NWS Management is forbidden to lobby also. Only one Professional Organization, NWSEO, can lobby and NWSEO will be lobbying hard on the Hill to stop all these ill-advised budget cuts and job eliminations and instead work to maintain or even increase the NWS budget.

NWSEO is continuing to point out that there are already hundreds of vacant operational shifts and will work with those House and Senate Members on the Funding subcommittees.

When a NWS employee joins NWSEO, they are making the best investment possible.....in themselves! Please urge everyone at your office to join NWSEO and perhaps those who are NWSEO members at your branch will assist you and talk with the non-members and ask for their support during our ***March Madness Membership Drive*** now through April 8, 2019.

-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.