

Message from NWSEO General Counsel

(May 16, 2018) Moments ago, the House Appropriations Committee released the details of its FY 19 budget for the Department of Commerce. The Committee has rejected all NWS workforce cuts. The report states that the Committee's "The recommendation does not adopt the proposed NWS workforce savings," and that "The Committee expects the National Weather Service to continue to hire in fiscal year 2019, and to have additional FTEs on board by the end of the fiscal year. The Committee expects that budget requests from the National Weather Service include all funds necessary to pay for staff, yet the Committee consistently hears of staffing and management challenges within NWS.

NOAA and the Department of Commerce are directed to ensure that NWS fulfills its critical mission to protect the lives and property of our nation's citizens." The Committee rejected the proposal to consolidate the two tsunami warning centers. Although the Committee did not specifically address the ITOs, the allocation for the "Central Processing" account, from which ITOs are paid, was not reduced by the \$10.1 million requested reduction that the NWS sought for ITO salaries. The total funding for NWS operations approved by the subcommittee was \$1,015 million, \$28 million more than requested by the Administration.

A PDF copy of the Committee Report- which is receiving final approval by the House Appropriations Committee as I write this- is attached. You may share the information in this Post and attachment with everyone in your region.

I will have further analysis later addressing other BUs and total NOAA funding.

NWSEO General Counsel
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