

July 3, 2023



The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science
142 Dirksen
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science
H-310 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science
142 Dirksen
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science
H-130 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Shaheen, Congressman Rogers, Senator Moran, and Congressman Cartwright:

On behalf of the United States Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA), I am writing to urge the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee to fund the National Weather Service (NWS) for FY 2024 at no less than the President's FY 2024 budget request of \$1,380,086,000, that includes offsets to account for needed \$40M in Adjustments to Base. In addition, we urge your full support for the other weather-related functions of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Strong investments in the NWS and NOAA are critical to support the emergency management community and help save lives and property in the local communities that we serve.

IAEM-USA, an association comprised of over 5,000 emergency management professionals, represents the profession dedicated to planning for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating against natural disasters. With the frequency of severe weather-related events on the rise, we feel strongly that Congress must maintain and grow the NWS workforce, fully support maintenance requirements, and invest in new equipment and technologies to minimize the loss of life and property when natural disasters happen.

NWS provides invaluable support to the emergency management community, allowing us to make critical life-saving decisions to keep our communities safe. Weather and water events cause hundreds of deaths each year and billions of dollars in damage. With improved forecasts and warnings and decision support from NWS, coupled with a well-prepared public that knows how to respond when informed of impending weather and water events, some of the deaths and damage are avoidable.

The funding decisions Congress makes in FY24 will set the stage for FY25 and beyond in terms of if/how NWS will move forward with their transition to eye-to-eye Impact-based Decision Support Services

(IDSS) for emergency managers. With strong budgetary support from Congress, NWS has made significant progress over the past several years on many fronts including: IDSS and future improvements, Advanced Weather Interactive Processing Systems (AWIPs) in the Cloud, Incident Meteorologists (IMET) support for wildfires, co-locating support at Emergency Operations Centers, next generation radar coverage, spot forecasts, the new website, and much more. Now is not the time to lose the momentum Congress has made possible. Transforming the NWS is essential to ensuring its future, and securing FY24 funding is essential to sustain services and continue the transformation.

IAEM-USA appreciates your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy M. Clark". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Cathy M. Clark, MA
President, IAEM-USA