



September 19, 2023

The Honorable Mike Rogers, Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Matt Cartwright, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Rogers, Chairman Shaheen, Ranking Member Cartwright, and Ranking Member Moran:

On behalf of the state emergency management directors of all 50 states, the Territories, and District of Columbia, we urge you to fund the National Weather Service (NWS) for FY24 at no less than the President's FY 2024 budget request as you work to complete the appropriations process. The requested amount is \$1.38 billion, which includes offsets to account for the needed \$40 million in Adjustments to Base. We also appreciate your full support for the other weather-related functions of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The National Weather Service provides critical weather forecasts, warnings, and information that directly impact the lives and well-being of Americans across the nation as well as our ability to effectively direct consequence management to events. The NWS plays a pivotal role in ensuring public safety, supporting emergency response efforts, and safeguarding property and infrastructure. Its work is particularly vital in the face of the increasing frequency and severity of weather-related disasters such as hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and extreme heat events.

In addition to its core responsibilities of weather forecasting and severe weather warnings, the NWS also contributes significantly to various sectors of our economy, including agriculture, transportation, and energy. Accurate and timely weather information enables businesses and industries to make informed decisions, optimize their operations, and minimize losses due to adverse weather conditions.

We understand tough budgetary decisions must be made, but firmly believe that cutting funding for the NWS would be detrimental to our nation's safety, resilience, and economic stability. Insufficient funding could lead to gaps in weather monitoring and forecasting capabilities, which in turn could result in delayed warnings and inadequate response to weather-related disasters, ultimately putting lives at risk.

We appreciate your continued support for this critical emergency management tool and urge you to find the room within your allocation to meet the President's request.

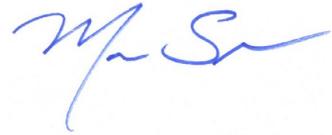
Sincerely,



Patrick S. Sheehan
President, NEMA



Cathy Clark, MA
President, IAEM-USA



Mark Sloan
President, BCEM