

**Testimony for Fiscal Year 2014: Department of Justice and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Submitted to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations**

**United States House of Representatives**

**Washington, DC**

**Submitted by**

**Representative Tom Reed**

**March 21, 2013**

Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies. I wish to testify in support of two programs. First, the methamphetamine lab cleanup transfer from Community Oriented Policing Services at the Department of Justice of \$12,500,000 to the Drug Enforcement Administration. I also testify in support of the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service under the National Weather Service at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at \$6,209,000 to adequately fund stream and rain gages in the Chemung, Allegany and Susquehanna River basins.

The cleanup of methamphetamine sites is a costly and potentially dangerous process. Local law enforcement agencies cannot adequately address the cleanup of such sites using their own resources and require federal assistance to do so. Particularly since the communities most affected by the impacts of abandoned methamphetamine sites are in rural areas with limited financial resources to address this issue, it is important that this transfer for methamphetamine lab cleanup is adequately funded in order to support this need.

Formerly, the COPS Methamphetamine Initiative provided grants to local law enforcement to engage in the cleanup of methamphetamine sites and also funded equipment and training for dealing with the impacts of methamphetamine on communities. The funding for methamphetamine enforcement and cleanup was reduced from \$40,385,000 in Fiscal Year 2010 to \$12,425,000 in Fiscal Year 2011, a reduction of 70 per cent of the total funding from the previous Fiscal Year. This drop off in funding is representative of the previous practice of "earmarking" funds for methamphetamine cleanup. The current transfer of funding from the Community Oriented Policing Services to Drug Enforcement Administration has now become a critical asset for communities affected by methamphetamine production and cleanup. This support must continue to ensure that local law enforcement has the tools and best practices available to safely cleanup methamphetamine production sites.

The Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service represents a vital resource in funding our nation's network of stream and rain gages. Particularly in flood-prone regions these devices provide an early warning system when river levels begin to rise, giving communities the time they need to prepare for the possibility of flooding or to evacuate residents if needed. These prediction services help mitigate the economic damages caused by flooding and are a critical indicator needed to avoid loss of life.

Earlier this year nineteen stream gages and seven rain gages in New York State operated by the United States Geological Survey were in danger of being shut down as result of lack of funding. Fortunately, the sites have shifted budgetary resources in order to ensure funding into June of this year but more must be done to ensure these sites are properly funded long term. In New York \$256,400 is needed to ensure these sites are funded for the remainder of the year, though the issue goes beyond this year alone. Similar funding constraints threatened the stream and rain gages in 2012 as well. I encourage the

Subcommittee to provide funding to the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service and to ensure that this program will provide adequate funding to stream gages to keep them operational year round.

Thank you Chairman Wolf, Ranking Member Fattah and Members of the Subcommittee for this opportunity. Please let me know if I can follow up in any way.