

Environment Subcommittee Chairman David Schweikert

Hearing on:

NOAA FY2015 Budget Request

Talking Points

10:00 am on Wednesday, April 30, 2014

- 1. NOAA's FY15 Budget Request is \$5.5 billion, an increase of 3.3 percent above 2014 levels.**

- 2. NOAA's satellite program continues to increase, now accounting for over 40% of the total NOAA budget**
 - The FY15 budget requests \$2.25 billion for NOAA's satellite office.**
 - The two main satellite systems are: the Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS), and the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES).**
 - These two satellites provide up to 90 percent of the critical data needed to make our weather forecasts.**
 - The JPSS program has come under scrutiny for its ballooning budget and mismanagement, leading to a delay in launch dates, which will result in a data gap between satellite systems. This will greatly impact our ability to provide accurate and timely forecasts. Likewise, NOAA has done little to address the data gap and has not considered commercial options, which could help prevent a data gap and reduce costs.**

- 3. NOAA has not yet purchased a new supercomputer using funds provided in the Sandy Supplemental**
 - **NOAA was provided funding explicitly to support supercomputing infrastructure.**
 - **NOAA entered into an agreement with IBM for a new supercomputer. IBM is now selling its computer server division to Lenovo, a Chinese company.**
 - **This sale must be reviewed by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) before moving forward. At this time, all agreements and purchases with IBM are on hold.**

- 4. NOAA's research office is funding climate change at much higher levels than other research.**
 - **The FY15 budget requests \$188 million for climate change research, a \$32 million increase over 2014 levels.**
 - **The FY15 budget requests only \$85 million for weather research, a less-than \$4 million increase over 2014 levels.**

NOAA Line Office FY15 Budget Requests and Roles

- **National Ocean Service (NOS)**, requests \$519 million (a 4% decrease) and is responsible for mapping and charting coastal areas and providing other navigation support services.
- **National Weather Service (NWS)**, requests \$1.06 billion (a 0.4% decrease) and is responsible for weather forecasts and warnings.
- **National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS)**, requests \$2.25 billion (an 8% increase), and is responsible for development and operation of satellites that monitor and transmit data for weather forecasting, climate prediction, space weather forecasting, and earth and ocean science research.
- **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)**, requests \$462 million (an 8% increase), and is responsible for research in support of most NOAA missions including atmospheric, coastal, and oceanic sciences, climate and air quality research, ecosystem research, and fisheries and marine mammal research.
- **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)**, requests \$916 million (an 8% decrease) and is responsible for stewardship of living marine resources through the conservation, management, and promotion of healthy ecosystems.