

## **STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO DOC FILING APPEAL**

***6/18/18***

Ten weeks ago, Sherry Chen, an award-winning scientist with the National Weather Service, finally received the vindication she had been waiting for. On April 23, Chief Judge Schroeder of the Merit Systems Protection Board issued a 120+-page decision thoroughly rejecting the many bogus reasons that the Department of Commerce had cited to justify Sherry's discriminatory termination from the NWS in March 2016 – and her wrongful arrest in October 2014 -- and ordered the Department to immediately reinstate her employment and pay her back pay and benefits. This "gross injustice," as the Judge described it, occurred under the prior administration in Washington.

Yet, instead of apologizing to Sherry, today the Department filed a brief with the MSPB appealing the decision. This appeal could delay Sherry's obtaining justice for years. Adding insult to injury, during the pendency of the appeal the agency has refused to allow Sherry to return to work at the NWS, claiming that her presence at the Wilmington, Ohio office would be "unduly disruptive." DOC's actions are outrageous.