

Ken Nelson
President
National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)
3100 Dick Pond Road, Unit E
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29588
Nelson@ku.edu
785-330-3689

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin,

On behalf of the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), which represents all 30 coastal states in the nation, I am pleased to express our strong support for the reauthorization of the Digital Coast Act. This critical legislation has played a pivotal role in strengthening coastal data management and fostering collaboration between federal, state, and local stakeholders to improve our nation's ability to manage and protect its coastal resources.

The Digital Coast Act has facilitated the development of high-quality geospatial data and tools, providing decision-makers with the information they need to respond to natural disasters, support community planning aimed to mitigate future storm impacts, and improve the quality of life for coastal communities and citizens. With many of the nation's population centers located along the coast, and the increasing challenges posed by hurricanes, flooding, and coastal hazards, the need for sound data and actionable insights is more urgent than ever.

Through its collaborative model, the Digital Coast Act supports a wealth of programs that benefit not only coastal states but the nation as a whole. This includes improving our ability to respond to natural disasters, managing resources such as fisheries, protecting critical infrastructure, and safeguarding vulnerable infrastructure. It has also helped bridge gaps between federal, state, and local entities, promoting data-sharing and the efficient use of resources, and providing essential tools for comprehensive coastal management.

As representatives of the states most directly impacted by the challenges facing our coastlines, we urge you to support the reauthorization of this vital legislation. The Digital Coast Act has proven to be an indispensable resource in strengthening our coastal communities and infrastructure, and its continued authorization will ensure that our communities have access to the data and tools needed to meet the challenges of today and into the future.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. We look forward to your continued leadership in advancing policies that benefit the states and communities we represent.

Sincerely,



Ken Nelson
President
National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)