



August 15, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chairman
The Honorable Jared Huffman, Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman:

The [Digital Coast Partnership](#) Advocacy Coalition respectfully requests your help in scheduling a hearing in the House Natural Resources Committee on [H.R. 4256](#), the Digital Coast Reauthorization Act. This bill continues statutory authority for and revises the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) [Digital Coast Program](#). This program currently exists under NOAA to provide data, tools, and training that communities use to manage their coastal resources. NOAA focuses on filling data needs and gaps for critical coastal management issues and supports continued improvement in existing efforts to coordinate the acquisition and integration of key data sets needed for coastal management. As a result, this bill reauthorizes the Digital Coast Program.

On June 30, Representative Dave Min (D-CA) and Committee Vice Chairman Rob Wittman (R-VA) [introduced](#) this bipartisan legislation, and now with nine cosponsors (including four other Members of the Committee). The strong bipartisan support for this measure is a demonstration of its broad appeal and value to the nation's coastal communities. By consolidating coastal data from a variety of sources in one place and making it publicly accessible, NOAA's Digital Coast project is helping the coastal management community better plan for resilience and prepare for storms, flooding, natural disasters, and other challenges that impact vulnerable coastal and Great Lakes communities.

Data included in the Digital Coast ranges from surveying, mapping, geospatial, economic, demographic and ecosystem data to satellite imagery. In addition to making this data publicly available online, the Digital Coast provides a wide array of visualization and prediction tools that dramatically improve the effectiveness and efficiency of coastal management projects around the country. Over the next 15 years, NOAA predicts a 411 percent return on investment from the Digital Coast project. In addition to the return on investment, the Digital Coast has played a significant role in protecting communities and natural resources from damaging natural disasters. Furthermore, 75 percent of Digital Coast users surveyed by NOAA indicated that their projects would not have been possible without the Digital Coast.

We respectfully urge your action in scheduling H.R. 4256 for a hearing in the House. In doing so, we deeply appreciate your recognition of the numerous benefits the Digital Coast can provide to coastal communities and those working to make them more resilient.

Sincerely,

American Planning Association
Association of State Floodplain Managers
Coastal States Organization
National Association of Counties
National Estuarine Research Reserve Association
National Society of Professional Surveyors
National States Geographic Information Council
The Nature Conservancy

U.S. Geospatial Executives Organization

Digital Coast Partnership Advocacy Coalition

10340 Democracy Lane, Suite 300; Fairfax, Virginia 22030 -- (703) 383-1330