

Coalition of Geospatial Organizations

September 4, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman, Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman,

On behalf of the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO), a coalition of 14 professional associations representing more than 170,000 geospatial practitioners, we enthusiastically echo the sentiments expressed by the [Digital Coast Partnership](#) Advocacy Coalition and respectfully request 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 and assets. 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 asset management. As a result, this bill reauthorizes the Digital Coast Program. The COGO member organizations strongly support reauthorization of the Digital Coast Act.

On June 30, Representative Dave Min (D-CA) and Committee Vice Chairman Rob Wittman (R-VA) introduced this bipartisan legislation, and now with nine co-sponsors (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 and aerial 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% return on investment from the Digital Coast project. In addition to the return on investment, the

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Digital Coast has played a significant role in protecting communities and natural resources from damaging natural disasters. Furthermore, 75% 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,



Jeff Lovin, Chair

Coalition of Geospatial Organizations



COGO Member Organizations

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)	American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS)
American Association of Geographers (AAG)	Cartography and Geographic Information Society (CaGIS)
American Association for Geodetic Surveying (AAGS)	Geographic Information Systems Certification Institute (GISCI)
International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO)	Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS)
National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS)	National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)
United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF)	University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS)
Geospatial Professional Network (dba URISA)	National Tribal Geographic Information Support Center
MidAmerica GIS Consortium	