

**Committee on Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife  
Oversight Hearing  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
February 26, 2019  
10:00 am**

**Oversight Hearing on**  
*The State of Water Supply Reliability in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

**Questions from Rep. Joe Cunningham** for Tony Willardson, Executive Director of the Western States Water Council

This is an issue that is particularly relevant to the folks of South Carolina's 1<sup>st</sup> district. Down in my district you've got the Ashley River and the Cooper River coming together to form the Charleston Harbor before discharging into the Atlantic Ocean. My district is among the East Coast's most vulnerable areas when it comes to rising sea levels. The lack of infrastructure and drainage systems to handle the uncompromising sea level rise often puts our community under water. It also leads to habitat loss, seawater encroachment, flooding, and a loss of water quality.

Scientists expect climate change to increase the frequency of very heavy precipitation events. In my home state of South Carolina, they say that "When it rains, it floods in Charleston." A recent study showed that Charleston is one of the most at-risk cities in the United States, and they predict that Charleston could be underwater in 80 years. This is a very important issue that doesn't just affect Colorado or the Western United States, it affects all of us.

1. What emerging technologies and management approaches can communities implement that will help them manage increasingly unpredictable precipitation and flood conditions?