

July 24, 2019

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom McClintock
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva, Ranking Member Bishop, Subcommittee Chairman Huffman, and Ranking Member McClintock,

In advance of the upcoming legislative hearing in the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, we are writing to let you know of our strong support the bipartisan bill H.R. 2185, the District of Columbia Flood Prevention Act of 2019. If enacted, H.R. 2185 would add the District to the definition of a “coastal state” under the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, making the nation’s capital eligible to start a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) funded coastal zone management program.

More than 70% of the District is located within the coastal plain and is already experiencing the effects of climate change and sea level rise. Since the 1950s, NOAA estimates that there has been a 373% increase in nuisance flooding in the District. Currently, over \$4 billion in property, both private and federal, and including national treasures like the Thomas Jefferson Memorial and the White House, could be subject to flood damage. Rising tides and more frequent flooding will also lead to more environmental impacts. Valuable coastal habitat, such as wetlands and riparian forests, may be displaced. In addition, frequent flooding could mean increased stormwater pollution which is a major source of impairment for our local waterways.

Allowing the District to develop a coastal zone management program will help leverage local and Federal resources to address future effects from flooding. Like many other of our nation's cities and states, the District must utilize every available resource to combat future environmental impacts from the threats of climate change and sea level rise. We ask that you enter this letter into the hearing record and move H.R. 2185 through House legislative process and over to the Senate.

Sincerely,

Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia

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Ward 4 Councilmember
Council of the District of Columbia

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Council of the District of Columbia

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