



July 30, 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

RE: HR2185, the District of Columbia Flood Prevention Act of 2019

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

The Washington DC Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation strongly supports bi-partisan bill HR2185, the *District of Columbia Flood Prevention Act of 2019*. This legislation would help the District prevent and mitigate costly future flood damage to buildings and infrastructure, as well as help restore and conserve the District's coastal resources for recreational and ecological benefit.

The Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves and beaches through a powerful activist

network. Founded in 1984 by a handful of visionary surfers in Malibu, California, the Surfrider Foundation now maintains more than a million supporters, activists and members, with over 180 volunteer-led chapters and student clubs in the United States.

If enacted, HR2185 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 also may 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 HR2185 through the House legislative process and over to the Senate.

Sincerely,

Ashley Schumann and Amy Bourne, Co-Chairs
Washington DC Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation