



September 3, 2025

Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Westerman, Ranking Member Huffman, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter in support of the Digital Coast Act Reauthorization (H.R. 4526). My name is John Copple, and I am the Owner and Chief Executive Officer of The Sanborn Map Company, Inc. (Sanborn), a pioneering leader in the geospatial industry with a legacy spanning over 150 years.

Sanborn has played a significant role in supporting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Digital Coast program, which provides critical geospatial data and tools to coastal communities for informed decision-making. Authorized under the Digital Coast Act, this program delivers high-quality data, including elevation, land cover, and imagery, to support coastal management, resilience planning, and hazard mitigation. Sanborn's expertise in remote sensing technologies, such as lidar, aerial imagery and analytics, supports the Digital Coast's mission to provide accessible, high-resolution data that empowers communities to address challenges like natural disaster preparedness, response and mitigation, coastal flooding, and erosion.

The Digital Coast Act Reauthorization (H.R. 4526) ensures continued support for this vital program, which delivers measurable benefits in terms of public safety, economic resilience, and environmental stewardship. I strongly support its passage.

The Digital Coast program is a cost-effective investment that delivers significant returns for the American taxpayer. By providing accessible, high-quality geospatial data and tools, Digital Coast enables coastal managers, planners, and decision-makers to address pressing challenges such as climate adaptation, infrastructure planning, and disaster preparedness. These resources support critical applications, including flood risk assessment, habitat conservation, and coastal development, ultimately saving lives, protecting property, and maximizing the impact of taxpayer investments.

H.R. 4526 ensures that this essential work can continue and expand. By reauthorizing the Digital Coast program, Congress is reinforcing a proven model of federal-state-private sector partnership that delivers results. Reauthorization will enable NOAA and its partners to maintain and enhance data accessibility, update critical datasets, and expand training and technical assistance for coastal communities.



I thank the Committee for its consideration of this legislation and urge strong support for H.R. 4526 to ensure continued investment in the Digital Coast program and its contributions to coastal resilience and management.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Copple". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Copple
Owner and Chief Executive Officer
The Sanborn Map Company, Inc.