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July 17, 2025

The Honorable Dave Min
U.S. House of Representatives (CA-47)
1370 Adams Ave, Suite A
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Delivered via email to: Ryan Ebrahimy, Legislative Assistant, ryan.ebrahimy@mail.house.gov

Re: Digital Coast Reauthorization Act of 2025 – Letter of Support

Dear Representative Min,

Orange County Coastkeeper writes to express our strong support for the Digital Coast Reauthorization Act of 2025, which ensures that NOAA's Digital Coast program remains authorized, funded, and freely accessible to the public through Fiscal Year 2030. As an organization dedicated to protecting clean water, promoting coastal resilience, and advocating for publicly available environmental resources, we consider Digital Coast an invaluable tool for the American people.

For over 26 years, Coastkeeper has grounded its work in science, advocating for sustainable water policy, restoring native kelp, oysters, and eelgrass, researching runoff pollution and other emerging threats, among many other initiatives. Accessing the best available science is not always straightforward, as resources are often difficult to locate or restricted behind institutional barriers. The Digital Coast program serves as a critical equalizer, allowing both established organizations like ours and emerging coastal stewards to easily explore and understand the complexities of our nation's coastlines. The program offers resources suitable for all levels of expertise and interest.

After leading water conservation and marine restoration projects in Orange County for over two decades, we can confidently state that community members who engage directly with these issues develop some of the most effective coastal management solutions. Tools such as Digital Coast make it even easier to empower this generation and the next to become engaged and informed coastal stewards. We hope to see the Digital Coast program funded for many years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Garry Brown". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Garry Brown
Founder and President
Orange County Coastkeeper