



Mayor and City Council

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The Honorable David Rouzer
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Representative Rouzer:

I am writing to you to express my enthusiastic support for the establishment of the Mid-Atlantic Flood Mitigation and Coastal Resilience Program at the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW), under the administration of the UNCW Center for Marine Science. This initiative, requiring funding of \$2,500,000, is a crucial step towards addressing the increasing challenges of coastal flooding and resilience.

North Carolina, with its expansive 300-mile coastline and a climate prone to intense rainfall, is at the frontline of the impacts of climate change as our state endures significant threats from storms and hurricanes. The establishment of this program is not just a regional necessity; it's a proactive measure for national resilience.

The program's objectives are multifaceted and critical:

Data Repository: It will serve as a pivotal resource for data on flood prediction and mitigation along the Eastern Seaboard.

Model Development: The program will advance the creation of computer models for better flood management.

Community Engagement: Vital in preparing local communities for flood events and enhancing their resilience.

Educational Outreach: It will coordinate workshops and public events focusing on flooding and resilience, particularly in the Mid-Atlantic States.

Collaborative Innovation: Working with both private and public sectors, the program aims to develop new technologies and approaches for flood impact mitigation.

The UNCW's Center for Marine Science is uniquely positioned to lead this effort, given its proximity to critical coastal areas and its existing expertise in marine sciences. This program will not only protect and prepare our coastal communities but also contribute significantly to the body of knowledge in this vital area.

Your support for this appropriation request will significantly contribute to the safety and resilience of our coastal communities and the nation.

Thank you for considering this funding request and for your continued dedication to the safety and resiliency of our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Saffo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Bill Saffo
Mayor of Wilmington