



**National Audubon Society**  
225 Varick Street, 7th Floor  
New York, NY 10014

212.979.3196  
[www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
2365 Rayburn House Office building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
1026 Longworth House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

January 14, 2019

Dear Leaders Pelosi and McCarthy and Chairman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger,

Collectively, Hurricanes Florence and Michael caused over a hundred fatalities and tens of billions of dollars in damages. The National Audubon Society has staff and members that are part of the communities impacted by these catastrophic hurricanes and we remain thankful for Congress' support for these ongoing recovery efforts.

On behalf of our more than one million members, including over 68,300 in Florida, 31,300 in North Carolina, and 15,700 in South Carolina, the National Audubon Society stands in strong support of H.R. 268, which would make supplemental appropriations available to help recover from Hurricanes Florence and Michael and other natural disasters.

Resilient, healthy coastal ecosystems serve as the first line of defense for coastal communities facing stronger, more frequent storms and sea level rise. In addition, natural floodplains and healthy forests are essential for water quality and quantity protections. Audubon strongly supports this bill, which provides funding to programs that protect and restore natural infrastructure that would cost-effectively reduce future storm and flooding risk. These programs include:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture/Emergency Forest Restoration Program. This program provides assistance to private forest owners for restoration.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture/Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations. This program facilitates the construction of small watershed improvements, including fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, stream channel restoration, and water quality improvements.

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/Title IX Fund Grants. This program provides competitive grants to enhance coastal resilience through restoration of natural infrastructure, such as barrier islands, oyster reefs, and wetlands.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Investigations and Construction. This funding would study and accelerate construction of projects to reduce risk from future floods and hurricanes.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Construction. This funding would restore and rebuild infrastructure at National Wildlife Refuges and provide competitive grants to increase the resiliency and capacity of coastal habitat and infrastructure to withstand impacts from future storms.
- U.S. Geological Survey/Surveys, Investigations, and Research. This funding would repair and replace equipment and facilities damaged by disasters and collect data in areas affected by Hurricanes Florence and Michael.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development/CDBG DR. This program helps communities rebuild infrastructure affected by natural disasters. By designating some CDBG DR funds for mitigation the future risks of storms and flooding can be decreased. Mitigation actions should be considered at a community scale or larger and include investments in natural infrastructure to maximize risk reduction.

When the House of Representatives votes on the critical legislation, please let us know if you have any questions and we urge you to support H.R. 268.

Sincerely,

Karen Hyun, Ph.D.  
Vice President, Coastal Conservation  
National Audubon Society

#### **CC Florida Delegation**

Representative Matt Gaetz  
Representative Neal Dunn  
Representative Ted Yoho  
Representative John Rutherford  
Representative Alfred Lawson Jr.  
Representative Michael Waltz  
Representative Stephanie Murphy  
Representative Bill Posey  
Representative Darren Soto  
Representative Val Demings  
Representative Dan Webster  
Representative Gus Bilirakis  
Representative Charlie Crist  
Representative Kathy Castor  
Representative Ross Spano  
Representative Vern Buchanan  
Representative Greg Steube  
Representative Brian Mast  
Representative Francis Rooney  
Representative Alcee Hastings  
Representative Lois Frankel  
Representative Ted Deutch  
Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Representative Frederica Wilson  
Representative Mario Diaz-Balart  
Representative Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
Representative Donna Shalala

**North Carolina Delegation**

Representative G.K. Butterfield  
Representative George Holding  
Representative Walter Jones  
Representative David Price  
Representative Virginia Foxx  
Representative Mark Walker  
Representative David Rouzer  
Representative Richard Hudson  
Representative Patrick McHenry  
Representative Mark Meadows  
Representative Alma Adams  
Representative Ted Budd

**South Carolina Delegation**

Representative Joe Wilson  
Representative Jeff Duncan  
Representative William Timmons  
Representative Ralph Norman  
Representative Jim Clyburn  
Representative Tom Rice