



May 21, 2025

Governor Ron DeSantis
The Capitol
400 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
GovernorRon.Desantis@eog.myflorida.com

RE: SURFRIDER FOUNDATION SUPPORT FOR HB209 “THE STATE PARK PRESERVATION ACT”

Dear Governor DeSantis,

Please accept the following letter from the Surfrider Foundation’s twelve Florida chapters in support of HB209 State Land Management, “The State Park Preservation Act.” The Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world’s ocean, waves, and beaches for all people. Our national volunteer network of more than 200 chapters and clubs protect thousands of miles of U.S. coastline through education, advocacy, and stewardship. Our twelve Florida volunteer-led chapters stretch across the state from the First Coast to the Florida Keys to Orlando to the Emerald Coast.

We are writing to voice our enthusiastic support for HB209 and respectfully urge you to sign this legislation into law. The State Park Preservation Act sets forth strong, permanent protections for Florida state parks. The legislation also improves transparency in land management planning for state parks while facilitating opportunities for public engagement in these processes.

Last summer, our members were among the many Floridians who spoke out in widespread opposition to the development plans for nine of our state parks. Floridians and visitors seek out and enjoy our state parks because they are undeveloped and provide incredible opportunities to be in and experience wild landscapes that are increasingly rare in a state of significant growth. These undeveloped lands and waters also provide vital contributions to coastal resilience, water quality, and habitat and species protection. These lands serve as natural buffers and filtration amidst increasing flooding and rising sea levels. We must protect the last vestiges of wild Florida.

On behalf of Surfrider’s Florida members and volunteers, we support HB209 and respectfully request that you sign this bill into law. This legislation provides the strongest protections for our state parks and safeguards the many benefits and invaluable experiences our parks provide Floridians and visitors.

Thank you for considering the public interests represented by the Surfrider Foundation.



Leisa M. Bee

Chair, Treasure Coast Chapter

Lauren Bintz

Chair, Orlando Chapter

Katie Cleek

Chair, Florida Keys Chapter

Steve Combs

Chair, Volusia Flagler Chapter

Elijah Cunningham

Chair, First Coast Chapter

Karen Doyle

Acting Chair, Emerald Coast Chapter

Gillian Eckert

Chair, Broward County Chapter

Mike Gibaldi

Acting Chair, Miami Chapter

Sabrina Hall

Chair, Paradise Coast Chapter

Molly Hietapelto

Acting Chair, Palm Beach County Chapter

Nina Hunt

Chair, Space Coast Chapter

Michael Norton

Chair, Suncoast Chapter