



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