

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary Sally Jewell
US Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240



April 15, 2016

Dear President Obama and Secretary Jewell,

The first Genesis creation story begins with the vast chaotic waters, out of which all life emerged. Today, the ocean continues to inspire a great sense of mystery, awe, and promise. With modern subaquatic cameras, we are finally getting an inkling of what wonders God has created underwater. Up until very recently, most of us did not know that only 100 miles off the New England coastline, under the Atlantic Ocean, we have canyons as deep as the Grand Canyon and mounts nearly as high as the Rockies, which are highly biodiverse areas in the Atlantic.

As a matter of faithful stewardship of God's gifts, we believe it is a moral imperative to shelter this underwater modern "Noah's ark" from potential harm. The coral canyons and seamounts have rare cold-water corals more than a thousand years old. Scientists are continuing to identify new species in this area, which are proving to be some of God's most exotic and wondrous creatures.

Likewise, these undersea treasures are integral to the historical heritage of tribes native to this region. Long before the advent of industrial activity in these waters, these tribes exercised wise stewardship of God's ocean gifts. We owe it to future generations to maintain these God-given gifts with the same level of care these tribes have demonstrated over many centuries.

By caring for creation, we honor our Creator. God's underwater creation merits our reverence. By designating these special areas as national monuments, we improve the chances our communities can get to know, love, and be good stewards of these beautiful, unique, and biodiverse areas. These special places deserve permanent protection so they can thrive for generations to come.

We ask that you use your authority under the Antiquities Act to designate New England's Coral Canyons and Seamounts as the first marine monument in the Atlantic Ocean.

With hope,
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