



CREATION JUSTICE MINISTRIES

Justice for God's planet and God's people.

For Immediate Release

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People of Faith Support Northeast Canyons and Seamounts

Over the past several months, Creation Justice Ministries has developed a petition that circulated New England in support of continued strong conservation protections for the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine Monument.

This petition was delivered to President Trump and Secretary Zinke on October 29th, and is a [statement](#) highlighting disappointment in Secretary Zinke's recommendation to roll back national monument protections for the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument.

Furthermore, the petition reiterates that the monument merits protection, and the choice to conserve the area is already a settled matter. It is home to many endangered species including sperm whales and sea turtles. It is also a critical place for the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration to study changing and delicate marine ecosystems.

Signers include members of major faith organizations in New England such as the Rhode Island Council of Churches, American Baptist Church, and Lutherans Restoring Creation. In total 340 of members of the faith community in New England signed this petition and voiced their concern for the rollback of protections for this national marine monument.

This issue was important to our signers, many of which have personal and compelling anecdotes for the continued existence of this marine national monument:

“I spent many happy hours as a child by the sea. Much of life as we know it originated in the water. Once destroyed, our environment does not get a second chance. Rolling back these rules endangers us in ways we won’t understand until it is too late. We have a moral obligation to preserve this and all of God’s creation for generations to come”

“Maintaining the seamount community is vital to the long-term health of our planet’s oceans and of life as we know it.”

“The ocean is a sacred place and supports life for the whole planet. Our nation should be a leader in thinking ahead to the future and protecting critical habitat.”

“Seamounts and deep-water canyons support unique fish and plants. Just because we can’t easily see them doesn’t mean they aren’t an important link in nature’s web - a web that includes humankind.”

In short, our signers and advocates are clear about one thing. We desire our marine national monument to do what it was designed to do: to help generations-to-come enjoy the bounty of the God’s marine creation, as we do today.