July 27, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
Office of the President
The White House, 1st Floor, West Wing
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

I am writing to you to express my support for the creation of a Marine National Monument to permanently protect the New England Coral Canyons and Seamounts. Protecting this pristine habitat will help ensure the health and biodiversity of the region's ocean waters for wintering Atlantic Puffins, as well as countless other species of birds and marine wildlife.

New research discovered that Atlantic Puffins spend the winter at the New England Coral Canyons and Seamounts and surrounding areas. Puffins are likely attracted to the region because of the productive upwelling that offers abundant food--the same conditions that attract whales, porpoise, tuna, sailfish, and other seabirds.

This special place is remarkably free from human disturbance. But the push to fish, drill, and mine in more and more places puts this fragile habitat at risk. Permanently protecting the New England Coral Canyons and Seamounts as a Marine National Monument will preserve it as a thriving biodiversity hot spot. Protected areas are also more resilient to the impacts of a changing climate and ocean acidification.

In contrast to U.S. waters in the Pacific Ocean, where very large areas have been protected as National Monuments, there are no National Monuments in the U.S. Atlantic. Now is the time to safeguard this marine treasure and the birds that depend on it, and to avoid irreversible damage to a remarkable ecosystem. I urge you to protect the New England Coral Canyons and Seamounts by designating it as the first Marine National Monument in the U.S. Atlantic.

Sincerely,
19,192 National Audubon Society supporters

Please note that 902 signers submitted personalized comments, which are included in the first 440 pages. Following that, the additional 18,290 signers are listed.