

**From:** Bowman, Randal  
**To:** [Michael Weiss - NOAA Federal](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: NOAA requests comments on Executive Order 13792 by July 17th  
**Date:** Friday, July 14, 2017 3:23:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [6.30.17 Tsongas National Monument letter.pdf](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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Rep. Tsongas letter on NE Canyons and Seamounts. Looks like you already have this, but here is a copy just in case,

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Chambers, Micah** <[micah\\_chambers@ios.doi.gov](mailto:micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** Wed, Jul 5, 2017 at 2:34 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: NOAA requests comments on Executive Order 13792 by July 17th  
**To:** "Bowman, Randal" <[randal\\_bowman@ios.doi.gov](mailto:randal_bowman@ios.doi.gov)>, "Magallanes, Downey" <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>, "Howarth, Robert" <[robert\\_howarth@ios.doi.gov](mailto:robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov)>

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**From:** **Cairns, Becky** <[Becky.Cairns@mail.house.gov](mailto:Becky.Cairns@mail.house.gov)>  
**Date:** Fri, Jun 30, 2017 at 2:37 PM  
**Subject:** FW: NOAA requests comments on Executive Order 13792 by July 17th  
**To:** "[micah\\_chambers@ios.doi.gov](mailto:micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov)" <[micah\\_chambers@ios.doi.gov](mailto:micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov)>, "[ecomstock@doc.gov](mailto:ecomstock@doc.gov)" <[ecomstock@doc.gov](mailto:ecomstock@doc.gov)>, Makeda Okolo - NOAA Federal <[makeda.okolo@noaa.gov](mailto:makeda.okolo@noaa.gov)>

Hi all,

Please see attached letter from Rep Tsongas in support of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument. I have also put a hard copy in the mail. Thank you for requesting our input.

Happy Friday,

Becky

Becky Cairns

Senior Policy Advisor

Congresswoman Niki Tsongas (MA-03)

1714 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

202-225-3411



**From:** Makeda Okolo - NOAA Federal [mailto:[makeda.okolo@noaa.gov](mailto:makeda.okolo@noaa.gov)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 28, 2017 6:20 AM  
**To:** Makeda Okolo - NOAA Federal <[makeda.okolo@noaa.gov](mailto:makeda.okolo@noaa.gov)>  
**Subject:** NOAA requests comments on Executive Order 13792 by July 17th

Good Morning Congressional Colleague,

On April 26th, 2017, President Trump issued Executive Order 13792 (FRN attached), which directs Secretary Zinke to provide a thorough review of national monuments created under the Antiquities Act. Included in the review are all monuments designated since January 1, 1996, with footprints greater than 100,000 acres or that lacked adequate public outreach or coordination.

NOAA is reaching out to you as it specifically relates to marine monuments within our purview, and requests written feedback on the monument in your state/district by Monday, July 17. This would greatly assist us in ensuring that we have captured your perspectives in our analysis of marine monument sites under EO 13792.

Please send letters to me at your earliest convenience, but no later than July 17th. Do not hesitate to let me know if you have questions as it relates to this matter.

Best,

Makeda

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Makeda M. Okolo  
Congressional Affairs Specialist  
Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

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Micah Chambers  
Acting Director  
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NIKI TSONGAS  
3RD DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS  
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**Congress of the United States**  
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June 30, 2017

Secretary Wilbur L. Ross  
Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

I am writing in response to your current review of National Monuments, and would like to express my strong support for protecting these national treasures. One monument of great significance to Massachusetts is the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument, which scientists have identified as a unique biodiversity hot spot, home to ancient deep-sea coral communities that thrive in the canyons and on the seamounts, and endangered whales, sea turtles, fish and seabirds.

The history, culture, and economy of Massachusetts have been inextricably linked to the health of our ocean for centuries. Massachusetts is home to one of the nation's most historic fishing industries, and remains the lifeblood of many communities. We are also home to world-class ocean research institutions and beautiful vacation destinations, both of which are sustained by our connection to the ocean. We have a generational responsibility to protect the health of our ocean so that it will continue to be a sustainable resource for our children and grandchildren. That's why I supported President Obama's creation of the first national marine monument in the Atlantic Ocean.

The Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Monument fulfills the requirements of the Antiquities Act by being the smallest area compatible with protecting the monument's highly-significant ecological and geologic features, which are objects of scientific interest. The monument area has been an important study site for researchers, including from academic institutions and aquaria in the region. In recent years, research expeditions to this spectacular undersea world have yielded not only new and rare species but also new understandings about deep sea ecology, and fostered growing appreciation of the unique nature of the area. These ocean oases serve as a reference site for scientists working to understand rapid changes taking place across the spectrum of habitats represented in the area.

The monument boundary and uses were also the results of an extensive public consultation process. The Department of Commerce held a town hall meeting in New England and invited written public comments for a year. Officials met numerous times with stakeholder groups – fishing industry representatives, local stakeholders, elected officials, and conservation groups – in New England and Washington, DC. Fishing industry representatives were engaged in the

process for more than a year before the monument was designated. And the Administration listened to and acted upon their concerns by reducing the size of the originally proposed monument and including a 7-year grace period during which the lobster and crab fisheries will be allowed to operate in the monument. Recreational fishing is also permanently protected.

Our oceans are changing at an unprecedented rate, and we must protect critical areas if we are to continue to rely on the sea's bounty and beauty. Keeping this monument intact is not only critical to our history, but also our future. For all of these reasons, I support the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument as it was designated by President Obama and ask that you do not attempt to modify its boundaries or uses, or otherwise diminish its value to our nation.

Sincerely,



Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress