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Comments: USFS,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern and vehement disagreement with the proposed ban on climbing bolts in America. As an avid and passionate climber, I believe that such a prohibition would have far-reaching and detrimental consequences for the climbing community, outdoor enthusiasts, and the spirit of adventure that defines our nation.

Climbing bolts have been an integral part of the climbing experience, providing safety and accessibility to a wide range of climbers, from beginners to seasoned professionals. The installation and use of bolts have been guided by responsible ethics, established safety standards, and a commitment to preserving the natural environment. Outlawing climbing bolts outright would not only restrict the freedom of climbers but also undermine the principles of responsible outdoor recreation.

Climbing bolts play a crucial role in ensuring the safety of climbers, preventing accidents, and minimizing the impact on natural rock formations. Banning them without a comprehensive understanding of their significance in the climbing ecosystem could lead to increased risks, potentially endangering the lives of climbers and diminishing the appeal of climbing destinations across the country.

Moreover, climbing is not just a physical activity; it is a way of life that fosters a deep connection with nature and promotes a sense of responsibility towards the environment. Climbers are some of the most environmentally conscious individuals, and they actively engage in preserving and protecting the areas they frequent. Instead of a ban, efforts should be directed towards education, encouraging responsible climbing practices, and fostering a greater understanding of the delicate balance between adventure and conservation.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed ban on climbing bolts and to engage with the climbing community in a meaningful dialogue. Together, we can find solutions that balance the preservation of natural landscapes with the enjoyment of outdoor activities. Let us work towards fostering a cooperative environment where climbers, conservationists, and policymakers collaborate to ensure the sustainability of our cherished climbing areas. Thank you for your time and consideration.