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Comments: I'm writing today as an outdoor recreation, wilderness, and National Parks enthusiast to ask the USDA to support the principles within the Protecting America's Rock Climbing Act (H.R. 1380). The bill would bring consistency to how the Departments of Agriculture and Interior manage rock climbing, which is good for our health, rural economies, and our public lands.

Climbing is an important part of me and my family's life. It's taken us to visit many of our national forests and parks and connected us with communities and public lands in Colorado and beyond. I'm particularly inspired by climbing in Wilderness areas, but the policies that govern Wilderness climbing aren't consistent across the country.

I'm asking you to support policies that help America's land management agencies to recognize the appropriateness of recreational climbing and protect the techniques necessary for recreational climbing in America's wild places. I urge you to support national-level guidance that protects historic uses of America's Wilderness, like climbing and mountaineering, reduces unnecessary costs of analysis and red tape, and provides certainty for rural and gateway communities that depend on recreation tourism.

Opposition to the principals of the PARC Act is based on the premise that Wilderness protection and sustainable access are mutually exclusive. They are not. Americans need appropriate and sustainable access to our public lands in order to support local economies, healthy communities, engage our youth, and future conservation initiatives.

Thank you.