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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Nate de la Montanya and I grew up on the plains of eastern South Dakota. When I moved to Spearfish in the Black Hills of South Dakota in the Fall of 2018, I did so to be able to spend more time outside enjoying our national forests and state parks. Some friends introduced me to climbing and this has been a huge part of my life ever since. I was introduced to a kind, encouraging, and welcoming community who shared a love of the outdoors and hard work to achieve their goals. I was introduced to the beauty and peace of disconnecting from our fast-paced world to focus on one specific goal without distractions. As someone who grew up in a culture of attention hoarding through technology, there was something unique and special about being in the Hills, on a wall with my attention solely focused on one goal instead of being pulled between different forms of technology. I have met so many great people and learned to push myself beyond what I think is possible and that is all due to climbing. I first learned to climb in Spearfish Canyon, somewhere where the prohibition of fixed anchors would have prevented me from climbing in the first place. I have recently moved to Fort Collins, CO and one of the largest reasons of my choice of destination was the access to outdoor climbing areas with fixed anchors. Climbing is such a joy and we have come so far in safety practices and this prohibition would SIGNIFICANTLY impact that progress in a negative way. Climbing coalitions are organizations built up of people who create and manage the safety of rock climbing routes purely for the love of the sport and experience. We recognize the power of climbing and how it has positively shaped our lives. Our federal government should be on the side of protecting and encouraging the sport instead of instituting laws to put up barriers for climbers. Additionally, it is important to listen to the voices of climbing coalitions as they are the folks who put in the majority of the leg work in keeping climbers safe. That is why I wholeheartedly endorse the efforts of the Access Fund and the Black Hills Climbers Coalition in preserving climbing access and advocating for responsible bolt placement. Their dedication to maintaining climbing access and environmental conservation is crucial, and I stand behind their initiatives.

Please work to preserve climbing in our outdoor areas for us and generations to come.