

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/7/2023 3:42:39 PM

First name: Scott

Last name: Hurst

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'm writing today as your constituent and an outdoor recreation enthusiast to ask you to support 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 my life. It's taken me to incredible places around the country and connected me with communities and public lands in our state 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 hope you will support national-level guidance that protects historic uses of America's Wilderness, reduces unnecessary red tape, and provides certainty for rural and gateway communities that depend on recreation tourism.

Opposition to 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, and future conservation initiatives.

Please support the Protecting America's Rock Climbing Act (H.R. 1380).