

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/13/2023 6:20:39 PM

First name: Lauren

Last name: Ford

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'm writing today as an outdoor recreation enthusiast to ask you to support the the legacy of rock climbing in American wilderness areas. Rock climbing is good for our health, rural economies, and our public lands. By continuing to allow the use of installations such as bolts and anchors, you support the future of rock climbing in wilderness areas and the economies of rural areas that depend on rock climbing tourism. I live in Bishop, CA, a small town whose economy depends heavily on outdoor recreation tourism.

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. The continued use of bolts, anchors, and other installations protect historic uses of America's Wilderness through rock climbing, which in turn provides certainty for rural and gateway communities that depend on recreation tourism (such as Bishop, CA where I live).