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Comments: Removing the ability to drill new fixed anchors, removing fixed anchors, and limiting gear placement within the rock will increase likelihood of harm to climbers. The knowledge of how to build anchors ourselves, access, and funding to access this knowledge is increasingly prohibitive in today's world. It's very difficult not only to learn how to put traditional climbing gear into rocks, but gaining access to rock faces to practice placement is already fairly impossible if you aren't in the community already.

Fixed gear on walls allows climbers of multiple backgrounds and ability levels to enter the climbing space much more safely and cheaply than they could have if they were purchasing all their own gear and having to learn from scratch. Even as a seasoned climber who has done sport, trad, and bouldering climbing, it would be impossible for me to enjoy the sport if there wasn't fixed gear already up on walls. My home crag is red river gorge, KY. I've seen the environmental impacts that climbers and the sport can have, but I've also seen some really amazing community building come together when there's work to be done.

Please don't compromise safety of future climbers in order to remove metal off rock walls. The sport will become inaccessible to newer people, and would economically impact businesses that rely on people who enjoy outdoor climbing (black diamond, PETZL, Scarpa). Even some of the towns and parks that rely on climbing tourism would take significant hits in revenue if fixed gear was removed. Safety and economic conditions point to keeping and maintaining fixed gear.