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Comments: I've read your proposals and from my understanding it sounds like y'all are trying to keep access to existing climbing open and arrange for an approval system for new climbing. While that all sounds reasonable, smarter folks than me have red flagged this legislation as a threat to the sport that I hold dear.

I personally value and have greatly benefitted from the current standards and practices that have allowed for development of climbing areas in National Wilderness areas and would be saddened to see those efforts hindered or eliminated.

With that in mind I'll copy and paste what I wrote when I'd only read from the critics that this is a declaration of fixed hardware as prohibited installations. See below

I'm writing in regards to the potential ban on climbing anchors.

In short, anchors are an unobtrusive critically important safety tool for millions of Americans and tourists who travel here for climbing contributing to the \$400+ billion industry.

Climbers, and specifically those devoted enough to establish routes and install anchors, are often some of the most fastidious stewards of nature. Citizen lead coalitions have for decades worked with Regional, State, and (I believe even) National Parks & wilderness areas to determine what practices will provide the right mix of safety, access and conservation for their areas.

I have had the honor of working with people on coalitions for Eldorado Canyon State Park, Staunton State Park, and the Fixed Hardware Review Committee here in Jefferson county Colorado who have for years --- YEARS --- arbitrated what kind of hardware is appropriate. Clear creek canyon, a favorite of beginners and people out for a casual day, allows for more bolts than the historic and incredibly scenic Eldorado Canyon. Local knowledge of areas and the people who visit them are vital in deciding what gear is appropriate and the idea of a blanket ban is ludicrous. It will surely get people killed.

I've had the great pleasure of climbing long alpine routes in Rocky Mountain National Park -- a place with very strict regulations on bolting. And I have returned safely but there are some climbs that can't be done without anchors for climbing and repelling safely off of them. But that won't stop people from climbing them. On climbs in RMNP where bolts are prohibited, do you know what I often see-- a tangled mess of brightly colored nylon webbing that people tie around the rock to make an anchor to rapel from. It's much more of an eyesore and ecological problem than a couple of bolts (which come in colors to match natural rock).

Prohibiting anchors will discourage millions of people from engaging with the outdoors and gaining the appreciation for nature that climbing fosters. And in cases where it doesn't discourage people it will endanger people. Especially novices who just want to go to the local bolted crag with maintained hiking trails, bathrooms and trash cans.

I could go on-- but I'll stop myself and merely say: I encourage requirements like rock-colored bolts & designated local committee approval which protect the sanctity of the land while striving to keep safe the people who live in and for that land.