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Comments: As a rock climber and climbing instructor I'm directly involved in this legislation.

Fixed anchors provide a safe way for climbers to see the outdoors while doing their favorite sport. In many areas they're an absolute necessity in order to climb a route at all. And they're required in order to come down safely from the top.

There have been drastic improvements in bolting technology to make them last up to 40 years! Meaning these objects aren't going to cause continuous damage like other options.

If you need another example of why bolting is actually a BENEFIT to national parks, look at Ontario Canada's Lion's Head park. A group there unbolted all of the easier routes, thinking it was going to drive off newer climbers because they believed the climbers were the ones leaving trash all over the park.

Well, after a few years it got WORSE because it was actually the hikers and joggers leaving all their trash. Climbing culture follows a "leave no trace" policy. That means we take EVERYTHING we bring with us in order to not alter the environment in a negative way. Most of us also pick up any trash we find along the way to be disposed of properly.

Banning, limiting, and restricting bolting would prevent groups like that from coming into national parks. This would also reduce the income they bring in since less people would be able to safely climb there.

This bill would also completely cripple our ability to find and establish NEW routes, which get international attention. Imagine that the hardest route in the world is out there, and it could be in America, but we'd never be able to climb it because it can't be bolted.

There aren't enough government sponsored climbers to bolt routes properly either. And a very limited amount of people outside of that who even bolt routes anyway. It's one of the most challenging activities, and required an incredible amount of strength, experience, and geological information.

Historically people would climb anyway, and make their own safety devices called Pitons. These were flat metal spikes that were hammered into the rock. They were dangerous and defaced the rock. That's why we started bolting in the first place, because you can't stop people, you can only make things safer for them.

You need anchors at on each sections of a route in order to lower safely back to the ground. I believe that this legislation will ultimately contribute to more accidental deaths in the climbing community because of that.

If you have any further questions please contact me, I will answer any related to this.

-Bryan P. Foley, Climbing Instructor, Planet Rock Inc. Madison Heights, Michigan.