Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/4/2024 8:23:17 AM

First name: Nick Last name: Herdeg Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support our national parks, outdoor recreation and climbing.

Please do not remove or retain any current fixed climbing hardware / anchors. This proposal is especially concerning as it allows these bolts and anchors to be removed if there is not resources to check them. This proposal also encourages permits for climbing which is very concerning. That would be akin to a permit system for walking to your neighborhood park, or needing a permit to pee in the woods. Climbing is a basic human activity which will always occur to some extent, and in America it should be our right to climb on public rocks and cliffs.

As the sport of climbing has grown recently to it's most popular ever, and is now an Olympic sport, people will continue to climb in these areas regardless of the outcome of this bill, however the safety of those people who choose to climb is in your hands with this proposal. If fixed hardware and anchors are removed, temporary anchors and gear will be used instead. Temporary anchors leave more gear trashing the mountain, and more bodies littering the desert floor. These anchors and fixed hardware in question were put there for a reason originally: to keep people safe and keep less trash (slings, nuts and wires etc) from being left on the cliff. I cannot stress enough that legislation limiting fixed hardware / bolts will directly lead to multiple injuries and deaths of Americans and those who travel to our country from overseas to climb our majestic mountains. If bolts and anchors are allowed to be removed the blood will be on your hands.