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Comments: I'm commenting to voice my opposition to this proposed legislation. I feel that this proposed change will irreparably damage the sport of climbing and its ethos.

Those who establish routes are few and far between, and not a common practice among most recreational climbers, though it is vital to the sport and its legacy. In simple terms, it's not something which is happening en masse. A qualified select niche inside of the community is responsible for nearly all new routes. Additionally, climbers already self-regulate the placement of bolts, their repair, and their maintenance. This is not a burden to the taxpayers, USFS, or NPS system presently. If anything, climbers generate revenue and traffic to these areas.

Furthermore, bolts have a minuscule aesthetic and environmental impact. They aren't readily visible from a distance, and even up close, they're often difficult to spot. I sincerely doubt that the public are outraged, upset, or even disturbed by the presence of bolts. Especially compared to previous methods of climbing protection, like pitons, bolts cause far less damage to the rock and to my knowledge do not significantly contribute to erosion.

At this point, I think it's important to understand why bolts are important to climbing as a whole. They allow for climbers to ascend formations which cannot be protected by traditional gear (cams, nuts, etc.). What would be a daring, death sentence of a route can be transformed into something a family can enjoy over a weekend. This newfound safety sparked a revolution in climbing which has come to define the sport, and push climbing to limits and popularity never dreamed of previously. The majority of the famous, historic, and notable achievements in recent years are only possible due to the presence of bolts. Which is why I maintain they're integral and essential to modern sport climbing, its ethos, and legacy.

In summary, I do not believe that bolts are a nuisance to the general public or the environment, I believe we'd be putting taxpayer dollars towards an already self-regulated industry, and I believe the creativity, longevity, and ethos of the sport would be significantly altered and damaged by this new legislation.