

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/4/2024 10:09:57 PM

First name: Josef

Last name: Lovin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

Bolts and bolted anchors are a necessary aspect of climbing, and without them hundreds of thousands of routes (by conservative estimations) would no longer be climbable. This would leave only a few thousand left that could be climbed, but even those would require extensive knowledge of climbing which would be impossible to attain without utilization of bolts on easier routes. Climbing, a famously American and beloved pastime, would be eliminated overnight. If this passes, the number of bolts that would need to be chopped would be in the millions.

A Federal agency passing an act like this would be an overreach and a betrayal of the precedent of allowing, maintaining and replacing anchors in the past.

This would result in unintended safety-related consequences, potentially resulting in death. Despite the appearance of climbing, it is a statistically safe sport. It may be the decision of the individual to elect to go climb and make the safety decisions that they do, but bolted anchors facilitate both safety and ease of use when it comes to climbing.

This prohibits the exploration of wilderness areas.

Some of these routes are among the most incredible human achievements, requiring skill, knowledge, strength and mental fortitude like no other sport. Climbing, a famously American and beloved pastime, would be eliminated overnight and we would become a laughing stalk on the world stage. Why betray such a fierce and human aspect of our already struggling culture? What a shame this is even proposed.

Do climbing areas need some sort of regulation as it pertains to safe bolting methods and what can be bolted? Yes, but I would argue it has that already. Some areas are ruled by local governance, other more remote areas are ruled by more compelling forces like community values, social pressures, and mutually-agreed ethics. A Federal, one-size-fits-all approach is an absurd overreach. Banning bolts in this manner on a nationwide scale is incongruent with the vision of this nation, and makes no sense when considering other larger issues that parks and our world is facing.

Please reconsider this act and never propose anything like it again for the betterment of our world and the safety of our nations climbers.