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Comments: The U.S climbing community and the National Forest Service are both based on the values. In my job at a rock climbing gym in Washington, DC and in my personal capacity as a climber, I have worked to promote a conservation ethic, teaching the value of our National Forests and Parks and advocating for the care and protection of our lands. The climbing community not only works with the Forest Service, but celebrates our forests and national parks, inspiring this and future generations and encouraging the continued protection of our valuable natural resources.

Today, I take the same values that the Forest Service was founded on every time I welcome a new climber into the climbing gym that I work at. Values of respect, inclusivity, and appreciation for our natural resources. These are the values that the American climbing community was built on and values that we continue to pass on to future generations.

The bolt prohibition puts those values at risk. It limits the ability of legitimate organizations to replace old or damaged anchors, prevents climbers from establishing new routes, and goes against the very reason the National Park Service was established - the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

I urge the USDA Forest Service to reevaluate this bolt prohibition and instead, work with groups like the Access Fund to create regulations that protect the safety of climbers and the natural beauty of our parks.