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Comments: Afternoon,

I'm writing to express my disagreement with the climbing "Bolt Ban" that's recently been proposed.

Bolts, pitons, and other fixed anchors are well established and low impact devices used to protect climbers both during ascent of otherwise unsafe expanses of rock, points of protection for safe belays, and for safe escapes (rappelling). They are also utilized by search and rescue teams and training for military personnel. Modern fixed protection (drilled bolts) have been used for half a century and older fixed anchors (pitons) have been utilized for centuries. Most importantly, they are NOT prohibited installations under the Wilderness Act.

Prohibiting fixed anchors or removing already existing anchors will create serious safety issues to climbers AND Search and rescue teams dispatched in an emergency (at which point the rescue squads will be forced to create fixed anchors for safety reasons).

The many avenues of climbing are all some of the fastest growing sport/recreational activity in the country, even being featured in the olympics. Safe climbing practices bring millions of dollars of revenue to small towns and the economy at large every year.

By banning bolts and fixed hardware, you will be eliminating the ability for millions of Americans to recreate and gouging the economy of tens of millions of dollars.

I strongly ask that you and all lawmakers think before making such a calloused and destructive decision.

Lastly, RESTRICTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ROUTES TO "existing climbing opportunities" ON NON-WILDERNESS LAND IS UNENFORCEABLE and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.

Respectfully and passionately yours,
Charles Chirchirillo