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Organization:

Title:

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Dear USFS (National Park Service).

My name is Thomas Sheneman, I am 16 years old and recently I have been hearing about these new policies that are being made about fixed anchors in national forests and national parks. These policies have been concerning me because climbing has meant so much to me recently.

I started climbing when I was 10 years old and it has been one of the biggest parts of my life since then, I was introduced to climbing when a classmate named Kellan invited me to come to an outdoor climb with him, ever since then I have just fallen in love with climbing and I started going with my dad and his brother. Since then I have gone through some rough patches, and to be honest just being outside and climbing has made me feel so much more connected to the world and has helped me through a lot of hard times. I mean when you are climbing, it's just you and the earth, you are connected to this rock while there is nothing but you, your thoughts and the earth. In 2021 I had found out that Kellan had sadly gotten sick and passed away, since then, everytime I climb I think about him and how he has changed my life so much by introducing me to this amazing lifestyle and world of amazing communities and people.

Taking away fixed anchors in national parks and forests, takes away climbing, and that for me just simply cannot happen, I have incorporated climbing so much into my life, I don't think that there has ever been a day where I haven't thought about climbing. Being in nature, especially now days, is so important to me and to everyone else in the world, the earth is not in great condition and it is heading downhill, so to me, it is so important to be out in areas where you get to really be with nature and you get to experience the beauty of the earth.

The safety of this entire community is in your hands and if you take away fixed anchors then you are putting them at risk of climbing unsafely. Please make the right decision, consider all of the bonds, communities and relationships you might destroy if you take away fixed anchors. Take this idea very seriously and please be thoughtful for everyone in the climbing community.

Sincerely,

Thomas Sheneman, UT