Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/10/2024 9:36:29 PM First name: Charles Last name: Ahlgrim Organization:

## Title:

Comments: I have spent my entire life looking for a single activity that makes me feel comfortable in my own skin and mind. This spans from every "normal" sport, arts, racecars, motorcycles and everything else under the sun. It wasn't until I started climbing outdoors that everything fell into place for me mentally. I wasn't confined by the rules of daily life, I could work a wall that has no emotion and make my own route. This is part of what makes the motion so beautiful. None of us are chained by what someone previously did or would do. But what we do take for granted is the fact that someone was more bold before us to set a suggested route and add protection. They didn't need to ask permission or even think about repercussions, simply just keep the community safe. If this ability to freely place safety is taken then our entire sport is ripped of its beauty. Not everyone can place a cam or swallow their pride for a long dangerous run-out, so taking away the ability to bolt routes cuts away a portion of the community we live in. I do believe in maintenance checks and replacements should something be aged out. But taking down routes, blocking the ability to bolt, and impeding on our sport only becomes dangerous and will risk more lives than needed. I have never been surrounded by more people who deeply care about the land we use than climbers. We go out of our way to not step on plants, don't climb during breeding seasons, and overall keep ourselves accountable for the messes we make. We do not work well in the normal world, we have to have places to adventure and touch. Please don't take that away.