Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/11/2024 3:39:10 AM First name: Savanna Last name: Campagna Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, I am asking Jay Obernolte as my representative to please support the Protecting America's Rock Climbing Act. Please stand behind the local climbers of Joshua Tree National park and stop the national park service and US forest service from implementing a new policy that will erase America's most iconic climbing routes and put our safety at risk. It is Unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades. Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal. As someone who has been climbing all over the country the last 10 years, I am baffled by the proposals being made by the NPS and USFS. Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.