Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/12/2024 2:33:44 AM First name: Nicholas Last name: Patilsen Organization: Title: Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed legislation to prohibit fixed anchors on USFS wilderness areas. Fixed anchor systems are inherent to climber safety, and restricting them would compromise that. In addition, restricting anchor installations to non-wilderness USFS land would crest confusion between climbers and land managers and will be overall unenforceable. While fixed anchors should have regulation (as they already do) this policy isn't the most effective way to do that.

Fixed anchors have aided in my safety while recreating in Shawnee national forest, and my experiences there have educated me on LNT practices and helped me appreciate America's wilderness. I urge you to reconsider this legislation, and work with climbers to draft policies that are inclusive of all points of view.

Thank you for your time, Nick Patilsen