

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/12/2024 4:30:49 PM

First name: Morgan

Last name: Gilmour

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am a physician, avid climber, and outdoorsman. I am writing to you to ask you to strongly reconsider your proposal to remove bolted routes and make fixed hardware placement on illegal for climbers in national parks. This is a terrible idea for many reasons. First, it will remove access to some of the most iconic and historic climbing routes. Many climbers are ill-equipped, financially or experientially, to climb trad, and some routes are impossible to climb with trad gear. For this reason, removing fixed hardware or the option to place fixed hardware would also remove the ability to climb there and significantly, permanently harm the sport. Climbing has been growing in popularity and is an excellent way for people to access the outdoors, get fit, and explore. Which brings me to my next point of why this is a horrendous plan. Some areas of national parks are only accessible for exploration by climbing, and trad is not an option. Therefore, following through with this plan would remove these areas from enjoyment and exploration for generations, until the law is sensibly overturned. Finally, as a climber and physician with vested interest in rescue and first response to climbing catastrophes, this law is frankly unsafe and unenforceable. It will drive climbers to climb these iconic routes without protection, leading to preventable injuries and possibly fatalities. A good friend of mine died climbing a national park route without protection. Please reconsider your proposal and think of the negative impact this proposal will have on climbers and the sport itself. Sincerely,

Morgan Gilmour, MD

LT, USN

mkgilmour19@gmail.com