

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/13/2024 3:57:14 PM

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Comments: I'm writing to express my opposition to proposed legislation prohibiting the retention and placement of fixed climbing anchors in wilderness areas such as Yosemite and Joshua Tree. These iconic destinations serve tourists including rock climbers, whose safety and ability to use wilderness areas with the same freedom as other tourists rely on those anchors. 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.

Without fixed anchors, climbers often resort to using trees as anchors, which has a more severe environmental impact and is unsustainable. Bolted anchors have been widely introduced in many areas largely in support of tree ecology. To restrict their use now would very much be a step in the wrong direction.

Prohibiting fixed anchors threatens America's rich climbing legacy, erasing some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. The National Park Service and US Forest Service must work together with climbing policy experts like the Access Fund to continue to protect the history of climbing and the safety of climbers.

Sincerely,

Derin Tanyol