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Comments: I strongly oppose the proposed legislation further regulating climbing anchors. Climbing in our national forests and other public lands is a recognized appropriate use. There is currently a very strong minimal requirements ethic in the climbing community, mandating climbing anchors that are the minimum to meet safety needs, and also mandating that they are as unobtrusive as possible. There is already a national organization - The Access Fund, and other local climbing organizations, that successfully educate and encourage this ethos. Adding additional cumbersome and unfunded requirements to maintain or add anchors to popular climbing routes will make them less safe, both for climbers, and for the rescuers will that will undoubtedly be called on to rescue them. As a leader and physician medical director of a large helicopter air medical rescue organization in the Rocky Mountains, I fear lives will be lost as a result, including the lives of rescuers. This proposal is wasteful and unnecessary, as the current situation is not a problem. I strongly oppose additional regulations on climbing anchors.

Steven Bott, MD