Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/17/2024 7:55:36 PM First name: Eugene Last name: Munro Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello - as a long-time climber and someone who uses climbing as an excuse to travel across the country to see America's beautiful national parks and immerse myself in the local communities, I feel strongly about the negative impact this legislation could have on the climbing community nationwide and the small towns near climbing destinations that depend on continued visits from people getting on the rocks. A big part of every climber's journey is coming to trust the safety of the sport, which to most outsiders looks like a death wish. But we know the safety bolted and fixed protection in rocks provides - and trust this equipment with our lives. With Decades of stewardship, continued discussions on ethics, improvements in technology - this is something climbers take seriously.

With climbing's rise in popularity over the past decade, to the point where climbing is now an Olympic sport, this ever-growing community will be equipped with the people to solve new issues and partner with existing parks organizations in new ways. The awareness and intention for stewardship, safety and preservation I've seen arise through organizations like the Access Fund and others inspire a vision of a bright future where we ALL can enjoy our national parks in our own unique ways. It would also be tragically ironic to remove the foundation of climbing, historically done on big walls with gear, as we move into this new era of Olympic climbing.

Please consider our dedication to safety, our American manufacturing companies constantly innovating, our small towns that depend on climbing tourists, and the quality of life for thousands of climbers that would be negatively impacted by this legislation. Please allow us to bolt and climb safely.