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First name: Emily

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have identified as a rock climber since I was a small child. My parents were outdoorists and took me camping and climbing all my life. It was the one thing that helped me build self-confidence and shaped my career and future parenting decisions.

I have worked in the outdoor industry since I entered the job force almost 25 years ago, including conservation research, outdoor adventure retail, and currently as an outdoor cookbook author. My mission has always been to get more people excited about enjoying the outdoors by removing barriers, not encouraging them.

The more people that think of the outdoors as an enjoyable and inspiring place, the more people will fight to protect and expand access to it for all. My mission has been extremely successful so far, and this change would reverse all that progress with no new benefits to nature.

I adopted three Latinx children from foster care and we take them rock climbing with us virtually every weekend. It is one of the most fulfilling life experiences for our family thanks to all the therapeutic benefits of being in nature, getting out of our comfort zones, and encouraging the best in others. I cannot fathom teaching them to go out and enjoy climbing independently one day if bolts aren't a reliable and safe piece of the experience.

I want nothing more than to protect our wild lands from the overwhelming damage of human contact and to protect the wilderness experience for everyone. Climbing has been recognized as a legitimate recreational activity in wilderness and pre-dates the Wilderness Act, and should be protected as a legacy with pride.

Please consider supporting Protecting America's Rock Climbing Act and America's Outdoor Recreation Act in place of disallowing bolting.

Thank you