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First name: Lino

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear ladies and gentlemen,

As a European nature lover and passionate climber who has been to the US many times for hiking, climbing and enjoying the beautiful wilderness areas and national parks I am very concerned about the recent plans to ban fixed installations like bolts and anchors. Climbing and mountaineering has a long tradition in remote and wild areas, no matter if in Europe or the USA, and climbers are aware of the responsibility to preserve and protect these unique nature. As a big supporter of the „leave no trace" philosophy I fully understand the importance of keeping the human impact as small as possible. Despite there are things that are necessary for making the nature enjoyable and accessible for the people, for instance tourists and guests like me when visiting your beautiful land. That can be infrastructure like trails, designated camping areas for multi-day hikes or pit toilets and parking areas at well-visited landmarks. But also bolts and anchors are necessary to make nature enjoyable for people and visitors and they are also extremely important when it comes to safety. Also the impact of small stainless steel bolts to the rock is negligible low (speaking as a studied geologist). Not allowing to replace and maintain bolts and anchors anymore will cause banning a large group of nature-loving people and visitors that come to these areas for sometimes decades and, sad to say, will cause serious injuries and deaths. Please overthink your plans and allow bolting and replacing/maintaining of anchors in the future, so me and my climbing partners will be able to spend further climbing holidays in the US. Thank you very much for considering my comment.