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Organization:

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Comments: Hello -

My name is Isabel, and I am an outdoor climber of 4 years. I began climbing outdoors on routes where fixed anchors are the norm, like most new climbers. Without fixed anchors, I would have had no idea how to build an anchor myself via trad or natural means, and either would have never started outdoor climbing, or would have put myself in dangerous situations trying. Lack of experience aside, many sport routes with fixed anchors don't even have a possible placement for an alternative anchor. If fixed anchors were to be limited in the future, people wouldn't stop climbing the routes using them, which have been classic to the sport for decades - they would simply do so in a much more dangerous way.

Additionally, the climbing community has a history of protecting each other and the nature we all enjoy. Bolts and fixed anchors are only added when absolutely necessary, and climbers have long enforced this amongst themselves. The most highly regarded climbers in the history of the sport are known for their reluctance to place unnecessary permanent gear, and this is a precedent that has followed route establishment throughout the decades. A reasonable balance between safety, climbing achievement, and environmental preservation has already been struck, and this proposal will throw it off kilter in multiple directions.

Finally, as a California transplant and someone who didn't grow up visiting US national parks, much of the appreciation I've gained for our national parks system is from climbing over the last few years in Yosemite and Joshua Tree. I have been able to enjoy our parks in a beautiful, surreal, and safe way; I want future climbers to be able to have these experiences and develop the same love and respect that I have for these places. This proposal will severely limit the type of exploration I've been afforded and simultaneously put future climbers' lives unnecessarily at risk.

Thank you for your time.