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First name: Jennings

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I grew up in Rappahannock County, Virginia at the base of the Shenandoah National Park. During my early teens in the 1990s my father taught me how to climb. We learned trad climbing at first; Aussie repelling and belaying while at Boy Scout camp; I became an Eagle Scout. Later when I came back to climbing in my 40s after years on the road as a professional musician I re-entered the world of climbing through sport climbing and leading sport climbing. Climbing is about learning safety, self-reliance, wilderness skills, knots, movement on rock, exploration of our wild spaces and about community. In the same way a trail will lead hikers to discovery, bolts and fixed anchors are necessary for our horizontal trails. Not only are the proposed new rules onerous and potentially costly, the rules will cut the legs out from decades of climbing heritage which have inspired generations of people to express themselves on the rock. Climbers need bolts and fixed anchors to safely and responsibly enjoy the sport as well as helping to give access to countless other aficionados who may not feel comfortable or capable of setting their own protection. It is reasonable to allow for bolts and fixed anchors in our wild places. They take up almost no space, they do not disturb the area around them, they are practically invisible to the naked eye. It is my hope that I will be able to take my kids, nieces and nephews and friends out, teach them how to climb and share in the amazing community that is climbing. Should these new rules take effect, it will destroy it all.

Thank you for your consideration.