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Title:

Comments: I wanted to take a short time to give my support to the continued use and upkeep of fixed protection including bolted routes and anchors for climbers. Climbing has become a major activity for me. I have been climbing for roughly 14 years now and it has become a passion. I began climbing with my dad and now have a 5 month old son. My wife and I bring our son out to the cliffs with us. Most recently in terms, we climbed in the Red River Gorge in Kentucky. We shopped at many local stores, dined at restaurants, and obviously enjoyed the outdoor recreation. If bolts are not maintained, they can create safety hazards for climbers. This would cause a greater need for rescue efforts and put more people in potentially dangerous situations. I could speak for hours on this issue, but I really hope that we are able to continue to climb on our nations protected lands and to do so with the best practices for safety and environmental protection. One last note on that point: at the Mohonk Preserve in New York, since anchor bolts have become more prevalent, climbers are disturbing vegetation far less. This reduces erosion, damage to rare plants, and potential encounters with wildlife. While having a governance solution is important, please know that climbers have very high standards for placing fixed protection on a whole. We are not constantly drilling. Rather, we want to climb. Sometimes, this does require placement of new equipment, but this should be thought of like Disney opening a new ride. It is not a detraction, but rather an addition. It is another opportunity for someone to face their fears or to experience the beauty of nature. Thank you for your time and I hope that you are able to see the weight this decision will have on future generations.