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Comments: I have been climbing for several years and oppose this bill. The presence of fixed gear allowed me to enter the sport and the sport has changed my life for the better. I work as an engineer for local government and climbing is an essential way for me to reconnect with nature after spending a week working on public infrastructure projects. I am very familiar with NEPA and the other regulations listed in this bill. Adding these barriers to establishing new routes and gear will make climbing inaccessible to low income people. Going through the hoops noted in the bill will add significant cost and time. There are much more important infrastructure issues to address than climbing routes. Why not focus on delivering infrastructure projects in our natural parks and wilderness areas? Why not focus time and funding on fire management? Focusing on climbing gear impacts far too few people to necessitate legislative action.

Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system and are not prohibited "installations" under the Wilderness Act. Following existing climbing policies that allow judicious use of fixed anchors for more than a half century will do more to protect Wilderness character while providing for primitive and unconfined Wilderness climbing.

It is unreasonable for federal agencies to create new guidance policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors across the country when they have allowed, managed, and authorized fixed anchors for decades.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will create safety issues by imposing unnecessary obstacles to the regular maintenance of fixed anchors, a responsibility undertaken by the climbing community. Critical safety decisions often must be made in the moment and any authorization process should not impede those decisions. Fixed anchor maintenance needs to be managed in a way that incentivizes safe anchor replacement and does not risk the removal of climbing routes.

Prohibiting fixed anchors obstructs appropriate exploration of Wilderness areas. Land managers need to allow climbers to explore Wilderness in a way that permits in-the-moment decisions that are necessary when navigating complex vertical terrain.

Prohibiting fixed anchors will threaten America's rich climbing legacy and could erase some of the world's greatest climbing achievements. Climbing management policy needs to protect existing routes from removal.

Restricting the establishment of new routes to "existing climbing opportunities" on non-Wilderness lands is unenforceable and will create confusion amongst land managers and climbers. Non-Wilderness climbing management policy should maintain opportunities for new anchors unless and until analyses determine climbing should be restricted to protect cultural and natural resources.