

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/22/2024 5:27:48 PM

First name: Scott

Last name: Reed

Organization:

Title:

Comments: In light of the proposed restrictions to the fixed anchors (bolts) used by rock climbers, I would like to share a bit about what climbing means to many thousands of us in this country. I don't have expertise in the intricacies of the fixed anchor issue, but I am a sport climber and regularly climb routes that rely on bolted anchors.

I fell in love with climbing a couple years ago and it has quickly become a central part of my life. It inspires me, gives me something to look forward to, keeps me engaged with and exploring the outdoors, and often gives me the motivation to get out of bed. It's hard to explain why climbing has this power of seduction and inspiration, but I know that for many climbers it holds a similar place in their lives.

Climbing is growing rapidly as more people discover the beauty and inspiration that it offers. It is bringing people outdoors to fall in love with the wilderness, and it is creating a cohort of advocates for and responsible users of the land.

Bolts are a critical part of what allows us to engage in what, to so many of us, is much more than a sport. Please bear this in mind as you consider any upcoming policy changes.