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Comments: The United States has a long and storied history with climbing. Bolts and other permanent anchors are integral to the safety, sustainability, and progress of the sport. This has been true since the very beginning of climbing.

Limiting or eliminating fixed anchors will have an unfair impact on fair use of these great public resources.

The timing of this initiative seems especially bizarre in the wake of climbing's introduction to the Olympics as these resources are directly responsible for building the climbing community that was able to foster athletes that lead to a maximum number of qualified athletes and even a medalist.

Climbing anchors have been subject to scrutiny multiple times over the decades, though this is the first time it has been looked at from such a high level. Perhaps it is the Olympics, and the boom in climbing gyms over the last decade, that has brought this management under the lens? Any top-down initiatives to limit fixed anchors would have devastating ramifications on climbing. They are needed. They keep people alive. And they are so important that donation-funded local organizations are largely responsible for administering maintenance of climbing areas. I myself have freely volunteered my labor and knowledge to help preserve both trails and fixed anchors.

The ability for fixed anchors to be locally managed is a MAJOR safety issue. Just as land managers have the right to repair a trail or bridge in the case of a flood washout, climbers need to have the ability to replace and repair fixed anchors when it becomes necessary.

And on that note, climbing routes themselves are akin to hiking trails. They are a reasonable avenue for exploration and, as with trails, their maintenance, development and use is reasonable and acceptable.

Federal agencies have allowed, managed, authorized and maintained climbing gear for DECADES! DO NOT CHANGE THIS!

Please allow fixed gear.

Kind regards,

Jason Picard