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Comments: Hello,

I am writing in regards to the proposed changes to Wilderness areas that will greatly affect the sport of climbing.

First and foremost, fixed anchors (and being able to maintain, replace, and update hardware) is extremely important for the safety of already established routes. Without the upkeep and necessary maintenance, there will be safety issues that will eventually lead to equipment failures, accidents, and possible injury/death. It is unreasonable for government agencies to now redact and create new policies prohibiting Wilderness climbing anchors when they have been managed and allowed in the past.

There is a significant benefit to the recreational aspect of the economy that will be impacted as well. People who travel to climb and recreate stimulate the local economy and bring in money. This is directly taken and quoted from the Choose Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade website:

"In fact, recent statistics show that 92% of Colorado residents participate in outdoor recreation each year. It is not a surprise that outdoor recreation is immensely important to this state and to those who live, work and play here. The outdoor economy contributes to a higher quality of life, making people and communities happier and healthier.

Colorado's outdoor recreation economy generates \$37 billion in consumer spending annually, and contributes 511,000 direct jobs. Those who work in the industry have collectively earned over \$21 billion in wages and salaries, while those who support it have generated \$9 billion in state and local tax revenue. This is no small feat, placing Colorado in an optimal place to capitalize on these economic trends."

Our priorities as a country are so mixed up. You want to ban bolts/fixed anchors that are necessary for people to safely recreate, be outside, and enjoy and interact with nature; something that provides significant mental health benefits and allows for a higher quality of life?

The question I ask is - how can we ban anchors/bolts in a country that won't even ban assault weapons? It makes me so sad and sick to think that this is what folks are putting their efforts into when there are so many bigger fish to fry.