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Comments: I am writing in support of the Protecting America's Rock Climbing Act.

The bill would provide land managers guidelines consistent with protecting our public lands as well as local economies. The physical and mental health benefits recreating outdoors in our diverse public lands are essential parts of what makes this country so special.

The pitfalls and outright dangers of prohibiting fixed anchors are many. As fixed anchors have been allowed for decades and decades and that a ban on anchors would necessarily make climbing much more dangerous a wave of legal battles would be imminent. As well, given that the ban would mean a huge rise in the number rescues and that the most experienced rescue teams in the country routinely place bolts for rescues, the ban would ensure that bolts would continue to be placed.

Wilderness areas allow for signage, trails and even buildings. Fixed anchors are much less intrusive and they stop people from getting injured or killed.

I have climbed all over the world for fifty years and the climbing opportunities in America are second to none. Fixed anchors are an integral part of what makes climbing possible. Historically climbers have always been advocates for the wild places dating back to John Muir and the establishment of Yosemite as a national park. Please support this bill and allow climbers to work with land managers to help public lands and climbers protected.

Respectfully

Peter Croft