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Comments: The proposed ban on bolting in rock climbing areas is not only unreasonable but also counterproductive when considering the overall management and conservation of national parks. To draw a parallel, this ban is akin to prohibiting the upkeep of trails within these parks. Trails, like bolting routes, are essential infrastructures that support specific outdoor activities-hiking and climbing, respectively. Maintenance of trails ensures safe and environmentally responsible hiking; similarly, bolting is crucial for climbers' safety and the preservation of climbing areas. It's important to recognize that both contribute significantly to the user experience and safety in national parks.

Furthermore, a substantial portion of the maintenance work for bolting is carried out voluntarily by the climbing community. This self-regulation and commitment demonstrate a responsible approach akin to community-led initiatives for trail maintenance. The climbing community's involvement in maintaining and managing these areas shows a dedication to preserving the environment and ensuring safe practices.

Enforcing a ban on bolting would also lead to an unnecessary allocation of resources. The enforcement process would require significant funding, personnel, and administrative effort-resources that could be more effectively used for other pressing environmental concerns or conservation efforts within the parks. This misdirection of resources seems especially wasteful when considering the potential negligible environmental impact of bolting.

When assessing the environmental impact of various activities within national parks, it's crucial to base decisions on empirical data and comparative analysis. If we were to model the environmental degradation caused by different activities, bolting would likely be a minimal contributor compared to other, more invasive activities. Its impact is relatively insignificant when viewed in the broader context of park management and environmental conservation.

In conclusion, the proposed ban on bolting in rock climbing areas is an overreach that fails to consider the actual environmental impact, ignores the climbing community's role in maintenance, and overlooks the misallocation of limited conservation resources. A more balanced and effective approach would involve collaborating with the climbing community to ensure that bolting practices are safe, environmentally responsible, and in line with the overall objectives of national park conservation.