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Comments: Dear USFS officials and policymakers,

I'm writing to address the proposed bolting and fixed anchor ban on climbing routes across America's public lands. As a lifelong climber, AMGA Certified Rock Guide, and Guide Service Owner, these bans could significantly impact the safety, integrity, and livelihood of the American climbing community. The potential repercussions extend to the financial aspect, affecting thousands of climbing guides, instructors, and businesses, contributing to reduced profits for the US Forest Service through annual permit dues.

Eliminating the ability to re-bolt or leave fixed gear behind poses a safety risk to climbers, including guides and their clients. The decision-makers behind this proposal lack experience in climbing or safety practices, putting lives at risk. Climbing history in America emphasizes community self-regulation, with climbers traditionally avoiding excessive bolting on new routes and refraining from adding bolts to existing routes where removable gear can be used.

The proposed ban unreasonably obstructs the replacement of worn-out or unsafe anchors critical for the safety of climbers. Throughout the history of climbing in the USA, there has always been an allowance for adding anchors and new routes. This sudden ban contradicts six decades of practice, hindering exploration in American wild places and undermining the pursuit of beauty and adventure.

Implementing this ban would lead to an increase in climbing accidents and deaths, prompting questions about accountability for harm caused by the prohibition on new anchors or installations. Public lands are meant for everyone, and restricting new installations or anchor replacements undermines the freedom of climbers in our country, contradicting the ideals upon which America was founded.

Sincerely, Erik Moore