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Comments: These regulations as such threaten the future of climbing in America. The guidelines laid out will be nearly impossible to manage and go squarely against nearly 100 years of longstanding tradition, and would place the undue burden of legislating climbing areas in the hands of people who likely know nothing about the sport.

Fixed anchors are a critical piece of safety for climbers, and if the replacement of fixed anchors is legislated by unnecessary bureaucracy, the local stewards of the land will no longer be able to conduct the routine safety inspections that have become a staple of the sport. People will get hurt, and people will die if climbers are no longer allowed to manage this crucial safety equipment.

From an environmental perspective, fixed anchors have far less impact than natural anchors. I live in Connecticut, where climbing anchors are a bit of a polarizing issue. Our primary climbing area, Ragged Mountain, prohibited fixed anchors years ago in favor of use of natural (tree) anchors which are the only safe option in many spots. The resulting erosion has been stark and the damage to the area indisputable. While anchors go directly into the rock with minimal disruption to the ecosystem, we've seen firsthand how damaging to the environment natural anchors can be.

Whether intended to or not, this legislation sends two specific messages: 1. We wish to ignore well-researched basic safety measures and value the new legislation more than the life of climbers and 2. In the absence of appropriate safety measures, we are virtually eradicating this sport and want more Americans to stay indoors and be more sedentary. Regardless of the intention, this will be the outcome if the legislation passes as such.