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First name: Olivia

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings,

I am writing in protest of the supposed bolt ban. As a climber, coach, and general outdoor enthusiast, I greatly value the community that goes into places and maintaining these bolts. They are a vital component to safe outdoor climbing. Without bolts, climbers resort to either trad climbing gear or sometimes no gear at all-- I'm sure you can understand the dangers with that. I have never known someone who has died climbing sport on a bolted route-- I've known several who have died climbing trad. Having bolts placed outdoors is beneficial to everyone: it gets nervous, first time climbers on their feet, and keeps us better versed climbers from making stupid decisions that take our lives. The point of NPS and USFS is caring for the land and serving the people, those are not mutually exclusive. Instead, we should focus our energy on creating communities that respect our land, are interested in it, and invested in it-- that comes from education. I am very lucky to have grown up in a crunchy town that took us public school kids on lots of hikes and nature walks; I have known the value of nature since I was a young child and it shapes my life everyday. Please, reconsider banning one of the rapidly disappearing methods of getting people outdoors, and instead continue teaching us to respect the great outdoors.

Thank you!