

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2024 8:53:20 PM

First name: Jeff

Last name: Bowman

Organization: Cocona Labs

Title: CEO

Comments: I'm writing today as your constituent and an outdoor recreation enthusiast to ask you to support the Protecting America's Rock Climbing Act (H.R. 1380). The bill would bring consistency to how the Departments of Agriculture and Interior manage rock climbing, which is good for our health, rural economies, and our public lands.

For the past 50 years climbing has been and continues to be an important part of my life. I have been privileged to climb in some of the most beautiful places and pristine environments throughout the United States and the world. Nothing surpasses the wilderness climbing in this country. That is not possible to do safely without the use of fixed anchors.

I'm asking you to support policies that help America's land management agencies to recognize the appropriateness of recreational climbing and protect the techniques necessary for recreational climbing in America's wild places. I hope you will support national-level guidance that protects historic uses of America's Wilderness, reduces unnecessary red tape, and provides certainty for rural and gateway communities that depend on recreation tourism.

Opposition to the PARC Act is based on the premise that Wilderness protection and sustainable access are mutually exclusive. As someone who cherishes and regularly donates to conservation non-profits, I know they are not. Americans need appropriate and sustainable access to our public lands in order to support local economies, healthy communities, and future conservation initiatives.

Please support the Protecting America's Rock Climbing Act (H.R. 1380).

Sincerely,

Jeff Bowman