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Organization:

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Comments: Hello,

I'm writing to express my concern about the climbing bolt ban that is being considered. Climbing bolts are an essential piece of safety equipment, used by people who love and protect the outdoors. Climbers, much like park rangers, go out of their way to take care of outdoor areas and parks, and to share that appreciation with others. The history of climbing is intricately tied to the history of our national parks. Banning bolts after they have been allowed for decades is irrational. I've also never heard of non-climbers comment on seeing climbing bolts, so they aren't affecting non-climbers experiences of nature and park beauty. Prohibiting fixed anchors will not only create an unfair obstruction for people to be able to explore outdoor areas, it will create a major safety issue. The climbing community has always taken it upon itself to replace anchors using as little material as possible, with as much respect for the natural environment as possible. Making it difficult for climbers to continue doing this cuts off the relationship between good stewards of our national parks, with the environments they're dedicated to protecting. To put my concern in simple, plain language, the park system loses far more than it gains by banning bolts. Only climbers know the bolts are there, and the parks get enthusiastic support and increased attendance because climbers go there, and encourage others to appreciate the outdoors as well. It's a win-win. And on a personal note, this is an important sport, with a beautiful history and legacy. Banning bolts would be akin to wiping out that history, which would be a horrible thing to have happen.

Thank you for your time,

Nick Towne