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Comments: I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed prohibition on bolting in US national parks and national forests. Bolting is a crucial element of safe climbing practices and contributes to the accessibility and sustainability of climbing areas.

While I understand the importance of preserving the natural beauty of our national parks and forests, responsible bolting is not detrimental to the environment, nor our Parks. It allows climbers to explore and enjoy these landscapes safely, minimizing environmental impact by designating specific routes. Moreover, bolting promotes a sense of responsibility among the climbing community to uphold ethical and environmental standards.

In fact, rock climbers play a significant role in the preservation of national parks and forests through their commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable outdoor practices. We often serve as advocates for responsible recreation, promoting Leave No Trace principles and educating peers on minimizing impact. Climbers are keenly aware of the delicate ecosystems surrounding their climbing destinations, actively participating in clean-up initiatives and trail maintenance projects. Additionally, many climbing communities engage in collaborative efforts with park authorities, offering expertise on route development and bolting strategies that prioritize conservation. By fostering a strong sense of environmental responsibility within the community, climbers contribute to the longevity and ecological health of national parks, ensuring that these natural wonders remain accessible for generations to come.

Rather than an outright ban, I urge you to consider implementing guidelines and regulations that ensure responsible bolting practices. This approach can strike a balance between conservation efforts and the preservation of recreational opportunities, benefiting the environment, the general public, and us climbers who hold America's Greatest Idea in the highest regard.