

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2024 10:18:03 PM

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Comments: To whom it may concern:

I am writing to urge you against the ban of bolting. A bolting ban in public land would be catastrophic for preservation, safety and the long term health of our outdoor spaces. Fixed anchors make the activity of climbing possible in many wild and remote places. Climbing is one way that brings people to these environments and allows individuals like myself to develop close, personal connections to the land. I feel deeply connected to the lands I've climbed in in a way that cannot be replicated by standing at a scenic overlook.

Fixed anchors allow us to develop intimate connections to these places and therefore encourage the next generation to act in favor of preservation and restoration. Put simply, bolts and anchors allow more people to develop a passion for public land and therefore create more people who might advocate for these lands in the future. We can't take that away!

There are obvious safety concerns that a bolt ban would pose for climbers, but beyond that, I feel it is jeopardizing the future of wilderness conservation. Climbers are some of the most passionate advocates for wild spaces and public lands, because they know them so intimately. Doing away with fixed protection and bolts would be a disservice to the future of wilderness because recreating in these spaces is essential to preserving them in the long term.

Please don't do this.

Suzanna Lourie, Ouray, CO