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Comments: To whom it may concern:

I find the current proposal to be very concerning and needing to be revised. I began rock climbing in 2011 and I can thank climbing for saving me and completely changing the trajectory of my life. I played college football at UNLV and weighed 295 lbs. After one season, a coaching change, too many injuries to list and a budding opioid addiction to deal with my already chronic pain I decided it was time for a change. At the beginning of 2011 I was recovering from a hand surgery where I almost had to have my index finger amputated. Luckily, they were able to fully repair it, however 3 months after my surgery I was still in an incredible amount of pain when the Dr. told me he could no longer fill my prescription. I knew plenty of football players still that were getting opioids like candy, so I went to them instead. I stopped going to my classes, was using pain meds more and more, and hit rock bottom one night when I felt I was truly on the precipice of OD'ing. I woke up that next morning and KNEW I needed change, so I went for a drive to the mountains just on the outskirts of the Las Vegas valley which is Red Rock National Conservation area and started to come back frequently to explore different hiking areas. From my time as a Boy Scout, I'm an Eagle Scout, I knew I was terrified of heights and always viewed rock climbers as adrenaline junkies. However, over the months that followed, I had run into a multitude of groups of climbers, most of them in the "wilderness area" of the park, and my perspective was radically shifted. Opposed to the wild bunch of folks I envisioned would be climbers, there were groups of people from all over the world ranging from young adults to 75 years old and one thing was radiating from all of them, THE JOY OF BEING ALIVE. Each was smiling, not as someone who just got off a rollercoaster might, but more akin to how an enlightened monk would carry themselves. They were friendly, would point to the high cliff faces they just climbed, and all I could respond with through my awe for them was "oh, I'm terrified of heights though so I could never do that." Many of them would respond with "I'm afraid of heights too" which I just couldn't comprehend. My dad was a rock climber in the early 80's before having us kids and had climbed The Nose route of El Capitan in Yosemite NP, so he suggested I look up a climbing gym to try it out. I thought, "I could use a new way to work out as I didn't enjoy going to standard fitness gyms as I missed the comradery of a football weight room, I'll give it a shot." I vividly recall my first-time walking into that gym in September of 2011, unaware how that one session was about to radically change my life. As I was about to leave while feeling accomplished for overcoming my fear and making it to the top of the 28-foot-tall wall, the person at the front desk offered to roll my day pass into a monthly membership for only \$30 more. I signed up, and as they say, the rest is history! Over the years that followed I became a rock-climbing instructor through the American Mountain Guide Association in Joshua Tree National Park as well as would take people up multi pitch adventures in Red Rock National Conservation area. I have climbed peaks in many of the lower 48 ranges: Grand Teton National Park, The Sawtooth's of Idaho, the entire Sierra Nevada range from Kernville to Bridgeport all along the 395, Tuolumne Meadows, The Northern Cascades NP, Longs Peak in Rocky Mountain NP, and many more National Parks, State Parks, Conservation Areas, BLM areas, and USFS areas. Most of these areas were all in the Wilderness Boundaries and while I was predominately traditionally climbing placing my own protection and removing it as we passed through the terrain, the installment of anchors is PARAMOUNT to the ability to take something that is "inheritably dangerous" as all the gear states and make it into one of the best ways to recreate in the outdoors in a reasonably safe way. It truly is my version of going to church and these areas are the cathedrals in which I go to worship the powers that be, whatever they might be, that created this beautiful Country we live in. It would be egregious to move forward with the current proposal as there is no stated budget or stated "means" of how these new rules will actually be enforced and all the potential red tape has left many of us wondering if it will just destroy the ability to recreate in the outdoors as climbers have for 70+ years now.

Thank you for your time and I hope you can see how meaningful rock climbing has been in my life path and why this is so important to me.

Tyler Lomphey