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Comments: Climbers and land managers, like the USFS and the NPS, haven't always had the best relationship. I am confident that both sides can cite challenges they have had with the other. The proposed legislation would ignite this tempestuous relationship again, disregarding the hard work of both parties to actually work together. It would also provide a huge strain on the resources of the NPS or the USFS to manage all the climbing areas on public land.

Gifford Pinchot said, "I do not mean to suggest that this is an easy process. Indeed, as an effort to realign itself with the democratic idea, it will be the hardest society will ever have to go through." I think this quote highlights the challenge before us, the answer is not easy. It is one that will take working together, local climbing organizations, land managers, tribes, and other invested parties. All lasting collaboration takes listening, working together, compromise, and sharing. Climbers are passionate, they love the land, and they want to see climbing available for future generations. To pit climbers, tribes and land managers against each other would be both counter productive and a waste of resources. We can always accomplish more together!

As a climber, mother, and human, the wilderness has always been a space for recreation, learning, and discovery. I know that there are areas that need to be protected, areas that are sacred spaces, habitats that are sanctuaries for sensitive species of plants and animals, and I also know that individuals need to be able to safely recreate and explore. Education and collaboration is how all of these can and should exist within our wilderness and public lands.

Gifford Pinchot thought about future generations, "A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children." I want my daughter and future generations to be able to safely access and recreate in the amazing public lands we have access to. This is a resource public lands provide, it benefits the mental and physical health of our nation. The proposed regulations would impact future generations of climbers and outdoor users.

Instead of engaging climbers and outdoor enthusiasts with preserving these natural areas there would be the creation of a rogue climbing community and division. This isn't a positive thing, especially with the growing popularity of this sport. It's important that there are safe ways to access areas that have been accessed previously and that new climbing areas can be developed responsibly on public lands. By including climbers in this process and allowing access to continue, we can then work together to protect and preserve sensitive natural and cultural resources.

My hope is that we can work collaboratively; listening, learning, and striving to understand.