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Comments: The sport of climbing touches more than ten million lives every year. Many of these participants fuel America's over 600 climbing gyms creating one of the fastest growing segments of outdoor participation and providing the customer base for an almost billion dollar industry. Most climbers are inspired by the many climbing areas and routes on America's public lands. Losing access and increasing the risk of climbing outdoors will directly impact the indoor climbing industry.

The Climbing Wall Association's main goal is to help manage the risks of climbing indoors, we are experts in climbing risk mitigation. Through that lens we can see a direct increase in risks for climbers outside where maintenance of fixed anchors will be made more difficult if the policies being proposed were to come into effect. Proper anchor maintenance is essential and must happen in a timely manner. Oftentimes it is the local climbing organizations and route developers who are best positioned to monitor and quickly address any potential safety issues.

The Climbing Wall Association strongly urges you to adapt the current proposal to support climbing route maintenance and development in order to promote and support the sport of climbing.