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Comments: As both a climber and the CEO of one of the largest wholesale distributors of technical outdoor products and climbing gear in the U.S., I am strongly opposed to the draft policy that would remove and prohibit fixed bolts in our wilderness areas. Below are several reasons why I am against this policy:

- 1) Improved Safety-Much better than without fixed anchors and bolts.
- 2) Best practices-The government partners with alpine clubs in Europe to enable safe climbing. I have climbed in National Parks and forests in Italy, France, Germany, China, Madagascar and maybe Switzerland. All of those have good bolted climbs available.
- 3) Absence of bolts makes climbing more elitist. It takes a higher skill level when there is no fixed protection.
- 4) Climbers, on the whole, tend to be environmentally sensitive. They love wild places and they usually clean up after themselves. They tend to be responsible and good stewards to protect the places they climb.
- 5) There is no benefit to keeping climbers out. The protection is mostly not visible unless you are specifically looking for it. Also, climbers on crags are generally low impact as a whole. They don't tend to go in large groups and they are focused on the climbing. Most of the places they go have very few other kinds of visitors.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.