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Comments: It is not our right to establish fixed anchors, only our privilege. Fixed anchors are an essential piece of climbers' safety system. With a stressed economy and limited resources, wilderness land managers are limited in their capacity to support the rapid growth of the climbing community. Therefore, it should be the policy of our land managers to enable us as climbers to safely recreate on our public lands. This can be achieved through support from national climbing stewardship organizations such as the Access Fund and the American Alpine Club, and local climbing organizations (i.e. Yosemite Climbing Association, New River Alliance of Climbers, Boulder Climbing Community, to name a few).

I work as a mountain guide and love spending a lot of my year climbing and guiding clients in the wilderness. As part of my job I have a wonderful opportunity to share backcountry best practices, fundamental climbing ethics, and Leave No Trace Principles with hundreds of people a year. The sport of climbing is growing rapidly and so should the amount of attention our land managers pay to the safety of those who recreate and work in the wilderness.

It is my hope that all backcountry users embark upon their adventures with the upmost preparedness, but unfortunately that is often not the case. With the growth of climbing there has been an increase in accidents and impact on the wilderness, however the limitation or prohibition of fixed anchors will drastically increase the amount of trash (ropes, cams, slings, carabiners, etc) left in the mountains because proper anchors could not be established and/or maintained. Allowing the national and local access organizations to assist in managing the fixed anchors is very important.

If a ban on permanent anchors is supported the Federal Government will spend countless dollars assisting in rescue efforts to help those who are injured or lost due to the lack, removal, or failed maintenance of fixed anchors.

For over 60 years climbers have been able to self-govern and control fixed anchors in the wilderness, please do not support legislation that was limit the access to the outdoors for any interested party.