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Comments: As a strong supporter of designated Wilderness, I oppose installations and structures in these areas, including permanent fixed climbing anchors. These areas represent the last wild places of the United States, and we should not make exceptions for developed recreational activities, regardless of their history on the landscape or their popularity in each area. Wilderness should be preserved in its natural, untrammelled state, forever.

As recreational use expands inside the National Wilderness Preservation System, the adverse impacts continue to increase. By adhering to the Wilderness Act and prohibiting all installations, including fixed climbing anchors, many of these areas will have natural use limitations, which may help reduce further impacts from increased Wilderness tourism.

Although I support the activity of climbing and the exploratory nature that this activity can offer, there must be limitations and we must show restraint. With only around 5 percent of all land in the United States protected as Wilderness, it seems reasonable to prohibit unnecessary uses in these areas, such as fixed climbing anchors. Regarding the safety of climbing in Wilderness without fixed anchors, I believe that the increased risk is compatible with the beauty of experiencing true Wilderness, and that these risks should be evaluated and accepted by anyone interested in exploring these areas.

Looking ahead, I hope that the values of our Wilderness areas are respected by restoring the wild character to every area that has been impacted by these installations.