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Comments: Research has shown that indoor CO2 levels can reach dangerously high parts per million and have health effects of humans to include brain fog, cognitive impairment, headaches, nausea, etc. There have also been studies regarding the CO2 level of office building spaces and the need for employees to request sick time or PTO. Because of how dangerous excess CO2 is, it is very important that we get outside and breathe fresh air. The climbing community has always been huge advocates in helping people connect with the outdoors as they are outdoor lovers themselves. Forcing those climbers inside a climbing gym could have important and potentially devastating health effects. Cognitive impairment from increased CO2 due to crowded areas could cause more people to make mistakes, leading to more injuries. More injuries could mean more emergency room and hospital visits and this overall increases societies health care costs. In addition to indoor injuries increasing, the outdoor accidents would be much more deadly and devastating! As we are aware, there is a term called free soloing where climbers attempt to climb without any safety gear. Banning the use of anchors and safety ropes to prevent falls would dramatically impact the climbing community! SAR teams. NPS staff and volunteers. Hospital staff that already have a lot of patients to care for. Not to mention that indoor CO2 levels can be a proxy for disease transmission and increase the risks of contracting Covid or other respiratory and airborne illnesses or illnesses transmitted via close proximity and touch. But the climbers who would no longer have access to safety gear would rely only on themselves and this could absolutely increase the costs associated with the parks handling of deaths as well as public burden. Banning climbing is simply unfair and unjust as it exercises a level of control over a person that is equivalent to that of slave owner and slave. While we all want to protect the environment and this beautiful planet we live on, allowing permanent climbing anchors does not necessarily detract from that. Rather I argue it adds to it. Especially if it's in a specific location, people can enjoy the beauty and enjoy climbing as well as hiking, camping, skiing and snowboarding, and all other forms outdoor and mountain sports. And a barely visible anchor camouflaged very well against grey rocks is much less ugly than a crunched candy wrapper or aluminum foil can and plastic trash strewn about a hiking trail and campsite. Although littering has been illegal for many decades now, people have not stopped littering or throwing trash into the national parks trails and disrupting the ecosystems that live there. And being illegal does not stop drunk drivers or murderers or gang members and thieves. Something being illegal also does not stop upper class people from embezzling money or lying and evading taxes etc. In the same vein, there are many young guys out in today's society who are climbing skyscrapers illegally. By preventing outdoor climbing this could increase the number of individuals who choose to climb illegally, in both rural and urban areas. Again, leading to increased risks and probability of injury and raising healthcare costs. And there is also a huge obesity and diabetes epidemic plaguing America right now as we have too sedentary of jobs. Climbing is a great sport that people can do at any age! Unlike other sports that limit activity or play to certain age groups. Climbing is inclusive! And a great way to increase regular activity. Again, banning climbing has long reaching effects over many interdisciplinary fields, not just with biology, but human health, liability, insurance, health care, economically impacting the businesses that depend on revenue from climbers, the parks that depend on revenue from outdoor enthusiasts to keep running. Or else just take the money they need from the government, which they leads to more arguments over what government money gets allocated to where, as the obesity epidemic and the homeless population continues to increase and we need that money to go to other programs. I believe that policymakers should have their own climbing experience or consult with a climbing expert before making firm decisions as more information is always beneficial and communication is absolutely key! Not to mention the "outdoor therapy," many in the climbing community get from going outside. Banning climbing could also lead to increased rates of depression and anxiety, leading to an increase in prescription antidepressants. And with the shortage of stimulants going on right now in our pharmaceutical industry with ADHD medications being unavailable for a large number of Americans due to increased rates of legitimate ADHD diagnosis, potentially increasing depression and anxiety could lead to a similar prescription shortage situation. Banning climbing in national parks has many far reaching implications that policymakers have not addressed. This needs to be reviewed and analyzed before enacting into law. And

even if the law were passed today, it would not completely guarantee compliance. Just like how drunk drivers still get issued DUI's or how teenagers still shoplift at malls. Law does not equal morality. We need more programs that encourage people to go outside, not less. And restricting the number of individuals who can participate in the outdoors can lead to racial and ethnic disparities, allowing only the very rich and very Caucasian access to certain parts of the country, which is an environmental injustice. People of color and ethnic background have been known to often be faced with extra financial challenges as well as being forced to live in areas where pollution is higher. This creates health/income disparities and further segregates us as a society. Restricting the public restricts those unable to afford private access. And it also creates a power dynamic where the USFS, NPS, and US government have more power over the people than the people agreed to allowing the government to have. Forcing people to stop engaging in sports and recreation has dangerous implications in many fields and in various aspect of society as it affects far more than just an average individual who likes to climb rocks. It impacts an entire community full of all different types of people and cultural backgrounds and beliefs. I urge policymakers to please listen to the experts in the community and further research the current state of affairs before making permanent decisions. Thank you for your time.