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Title:

Comments: I want to express my strong concern with the possibility of this proposal turning into law. Any person who loves nature will agree that wilderness areas need to be protected. However, any person who values personal freedom and history should also understand that climbing is not only a sport, but that is also deeply linked to the basic human need of exploring our surroundings. We only need to take a moment to look away from the current massification of the sport that anyone going into a climbing gym can see, and take a look at the history of climbing, that started with the exploration of the Alps in the XVIII and XIX centuries, and continued expanding throughout the world, reaching places that humans never thought possible. That quest remains today, not climbing the tallest peaks on Earth, but challenging the limits of what is possible on ever more difficult routes on remote walls. A lot of this history (past and present) has happened and continues to happens in the walls of North America, and passing this legislation will effectively erase that history, and prevent this and future generations from enjoying these natural spaces in a respectful way. Banning fixed anchors will, as I am sure many have noted already, lead to climbing effectively being wiped as a sport from the US, but also to unsafe situations where people's lives will be put unneessesarily at risk.