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Comments: I am writing to comment on the proposed regulations around fixed anchors in Wilderness Anchors. These regulations would put an end to a culture that began before National Parks and Wilderness Areas were established. This is a culture that has been the inspiration for exploration, discovery, literature and art since the late 1800's for climbers and non-climbers alike. The website of The National Park Service reads:

Climbing, as a recreational activity, artfully balances technique and strength while providing unique perspective to natural formations and the surrounding landscape. From mountaineering to bouldering, beginner to advanced - many of our national parks offer opportunities for a diverse span of climbing styles, on various types of surfaces including rocks, ice and snow, for climbers of every skill level. Climbing can cultivate one's connection with the resources and foster stewardship for public lands. By climbing only in places that are allowed and minimizing impact on natural and cultural resources, you can help to ensure these inspiring places are preserved for future generations.

Since my first climbing experience of summiting the Grand Teton in Grand Teton National Park in 1978 my life and character have been positively shaped by climbing in ways that few other activities or disciplines could have done. I have embraced the awe and value of nature from a rare and unique perspective. I have invested time and effort in my health to maintain the necessary strength and agility to safely participate. I have gained confidence in a society that often diminishes strong women. And most importantly, I have created lifelong relationships with my family and friends that are strengthened by the fact that we trust each other with our lives under challenging conditions.

In a changing world that continues to isolate us from the natural world and each other, is riddled with depression, ennui and no sense of direction, I implore you to allow fixed anchors and fixed equipment in our National Park Wilderness Areas and save a culture that will continue to provide the opportunity for inspiration, passion, land stewardship and human connection in generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.