Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 4:03:17 AM First name: Richard Last name: Jones Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the issue of fixed anchors. Our community relies on the strength of these anchors to safely conduct ourselves while exploring our beautiful country. For the past 60 years our community has been careful stewards of the land, upholding and supporting the policies set forth in the Wilderness Act. Banning the use of fixed anchors will create safety issues in areas where rescue is already a challenge. The sense of adventure that these wild places provide is unobtainable otherwise. Fixed anchors allow us to have the same wild and awe-inspiring experiences that our forefathers had. Generations of climbers have forged paths deep into the unknown, inspiring generations of future climbers to go out and experience the world. We hope that congress can work together with representatives of our community to discuss legislation that protects our use of these lands. The proposed ban of fixed anchors and classifying them as "installations" is too simplistic, and while we appreciate the time congress has given our community, I hope you will listen to us, and our representatives, when we say that this is not the right path forward for any of us. We hope to guide our representatives to a thoughtful, well planned solution to this proposal. Thank you