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Comments: In this country we are so incredibly fortunate for the Wilderness Act of 1964, instated to preserve spectacular areas for the "use and enjoyment of the American people in such a manner that will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness." I can't eve count how many wilderness areas I've recreated in, some of my local favorites being the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and Glacier Peak Wilderness in Washington state.

As a climber, I am also concerned about the impending legislation regarding fixed anchors. I believe it is inaccurate to define these as "installations" under the Wilderness Act, which is used more to refer to roads and structures. Current policies already allow for only hand-drilled bolts and other anchors when really necessary and adding additional regulation will only increase confusion and compromise safety.

Fixed anchors are a critical piece of climbers' safety system, usually used to get down the mountain or rock face after using removable gear on the way up. Often there is no other option, and taking away the ability to install a fix anchor where needed may cause unnecessary duress, rescues, and eventually a lessened willingness to explore uncharted terrain - isn't that an American value?

Prohibiting fixed anchors will also cause undue difficulty in maintaining existing anchors. This is currently done by responsible and generous members of the climbing community and they should remain incentivized to do so, not discouraged by regulatory burden. The last thing we want is climbers using old, unsafe anchors that would have been replaced, but were not due to this legislation.

We have a rich climbing legacy here in America and some of the most amazing achievements have been accomplished in Wilderness areas. Please allow us to keep climbing and do it safely.