Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 4:05:15 AM First name: Matthew Last name: Van Meter Organization:

Title:

Comments: I, as a climber who grew up in this sport, wholeheartedly oppose the proposed bolt ban. To start, the ban on fixed anchors (dubbing them as "prohibited installations") would immediately increase the danger that climbers would be putting themselves in. Fixed anchors are an essential part of rock climbing and the sport cannot logically exist without them. With so many other countries perfectly fine with fixed anchors, climbers across the world would see it as a tarnish on the name of the country that dubs itself 'The land of the Free' if we banned them, killing a growing sport. Climbers need fixed anchors to operate, and even if they need to apply to add them, many climbers and route developers do not know from the ground where they will need to place a fixed anchor. This would inherently and immediately increase the danger for everyone in the sport. Deaths will ensue. Furthermore, this ban on fixed anchors would simply be unenforceable on the scale it is intended to be implemented. The government infrastructure needed to enforce such a draconian and pointless ban would lead to millions of dollars of taxpayers' money wasted. Lastly, if we wish to conserve the United States' wilderness areas, why are fixed anchors what we are coming after? They simply do not pose any real or longterm threat to the wilderness. Most people cannot even spot one without knowing it is there.