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Public input is very important to inform decision making by the DBRC. The current proposal seems to lock out the voices of citizens. I am strongly against the current proposal.

In the proposal, the Executive Director is given far too much authority over many crucial decisions and these are made behind closed doors, without the public and without a vote by the DRBC Commissioners.

The Executive Director is being invested with exclusive authority regarding extension of permits that removes public input completely and relieves the Commissioners of their responsibility to review and approve extensions. This legitimizes the behind-the-scenes decision making that undermines government accountability and public trust.

The DRBC must provide a prescribed public access system that is clear, user-friendly, and affordable to assure public access to public records. DRBC is proposing to remove all references to the federal Freedom of Information Act from its rules and is setting up an alternative DRBC-centric system that leaves many aspects unaddressed or in the hands of the Executive Director, such as forms, reason for denial, and how costs will be assessed fairly, including if a waiver of fees can be requested like other agencies allow.