

# Sophia Milone

These rules increase the power and authority of the Executive Director and appear to minimize public involvement in DRBS decision-making. The E.D. would control: what information can or cannot be disclosed to the public; the details of the application process; permit extensions; and "material" changes to projects. I fear that the E.D.'s power would be unchecked and could lead to decision-making that does not reflect the interests of the public, or even the interests of the Commission as a whole.

As a young activist soon to graduate with a Sustainability degree with a Policy concentration from Stockton University, I understand how important it is for the public and all stakeholders to be a major part of decision-making. It is also critical that all information is accessible by the public, so they can develop and communicate informed opinions. I believe it is important for the DRBC to not only allow, but encourage meaningful public participation and transparent discussions regarding existing issues.

I would like to close with this simple but powerful statement made by the Delaware Riverkeeper: "We also have advocated for the DRBC Commissioners to be hands-on involved and engaged with the decisions that are made as these representatives of our elected government are accessible to us, as members of the public, and they are required to respect our rights and protect the environment for the public good."

Thank you.