

*Promoting and protecting the natural resources, rural economy,
history and beauty of the Virginia Piedmont*

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to offer a letter of reference for Andrew Olive. Andrew is a talented, thoughtful individual who I believe would be an asset to any organization.

Andrew was selected as one of twelve participants in the 2017 Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) Summer Fellowship program (out of 45 applicants from 17 US states). Our Fellowship program seeks to identify future leaders in natural resource protection and give them a crash-course in local land use planning, land conservation and land management. Andrew had applied to the PEC Fellowship after completing coursework in Environmental Studies and English at the The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Throughout the PEC Fellowship, which includes an academic, field trip and practicum component, Andrew’s participation led to deeper and more informative discussion. I found him to be smart, self-motivated and dependable. His writing assignments were particularly interesting and something I looked forward to reading each week.

His final project, *Shadow of Shenandoah: A PEC Fellows Podcast*, took not only technical know-how, which he possesses, but also required soft skills. He and his partner interviewed locals and government officials to create a podcast series about the communities surrounding Shenandoah National Park and their relationship with the park. It was our first direct experience with producing a podcast, and Andrew taught us, instead of the other way around.

I hope you give Andrew your fullest consideration and would be happy to speak by phone if needed.

Sincerely,

Bri West
Director of Outreach & Communications
The Piedmont Environmental Council