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*VIA EMAIL ONLY*

January 3, 2025

Chief Justice Cory Swanson  
Montana Supreme Court  
c/o Office of Court Administrator  
[rbird@mt.gov](mailto:rbird@mt.gov)

RE: Support of Bina R. Peters as Associate Water Judge

Dear Chief Justice Swanson:

It is my pleasure to submit this letter to you supporting Bina R. Peters' appointment as the next Associate Water Judge for the Montana Water Court. Undoubtedly, all of the candidates are qualified and would make a fine Associate Water Judge. It is my belief, however, that Bina is the most suited person for this position.

In my private practice, I have handled what I would consider to be a fair amount of water law since starting in September of 2011. It has been in this arena of water law that I have become acquainted with Bina. When I first began practicing, Bina was a Water Master with the Water Court where I had matters she presided over. She performed her duties as Water Master with diligence, and I always found her to be practical and prudent. Matters moved along in front of her.

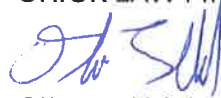
Ms. Peters then shifted over to the private practice realm and became a colleague whom I had various water cases with. I always enjoyed my experiences with her. She has an even-keeled temperament which I believe would be well suited for the Associate Water Judge position. She has represented all types of water users in all types of actions. Not only was her work product timely and well prepared, what was apparent to me was she cared about her clients and diligently represented them. She did so while respecting the law, and she did not take unreasonable positions. For me, it is Bina's experience in private practice that truly separates her from the other candidates. She has been in the trenches on both sides of the table. She can look at a situation with a perspective only someone who has been on both sides of the table can. That is invaluable, and that is what the Water Court needs. Additionally, owning and managing her own private practice has undoubtedly conferred a unique set of skills on Bina. Not only did she have to focus on her work and clients, she also had to focus on all the things that come with running a law firm. These are all things that will subtly show themselves in the work she does for the Water Court.

I also had the pleasure of serving with Bina on the Board of the Water Section of the Montana Bar Association. Based on conversations I have had with Bina, it's apparent to me she enjoys water law, is a "student" of water law, and cares about the direction water law is headed in the state of Montana. In particular, she will help Montana reach the conclusion of the adjudication, and she will be directly involved in formulating the roll of the Water Court into the future.

It is with these thoughts in mind that I provide this recommendation for Bina to be appointed the next Associate Water Judge.

Respectfully,

URICK LAW FIRM, PLLC



Oliver J. Urick