

Holly Franz  
653 N Warren St  
Helena, MT 59601  
406-202-2535

January 6, 2025

Hon. Chief Justice Cory Swanson  
Montana Supreme Court

Re: Support for Bina Peters as Associate Water Judge

Dear Chief Justice:

I am writing to support Bina Peters' application for Associate Water Judge.

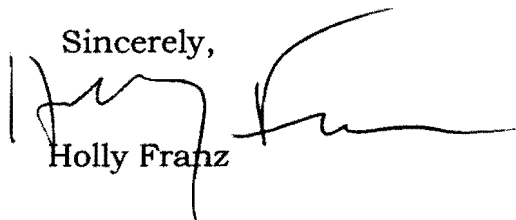
I recently retired from the practice of law. During my years of practicing water law, I appeared in Water Court before all the current applicants for Associate Water Judge. I tried cases before or participated in settlement conferences with most of the applicants; had multiple cases with Bina Peters after she entered private practice; and served with Bill Fanning on the Montana Water Resources Association Board. The applicants are all respected water professionals.

I believe Ms. Peters is uniquely qualified for the position. I tried one particularly contentious case before her involving local ranchers with difficult personalities and was impressed by her judicial temperament. She treated all litigants and counsel with respect while efficiently moving the case forward to judgment based on the facts and applicable law.

In her private practice, Ms. Peters competently represents a variety of water users before the Water Court, District Court, and DNRC. Her experience provides invaluable insights into the entire water right governing process that will serve her well as an Associate Water Judge. She knows water rights from both sides of the bench.

I am encouraged by the Water Court's recent issuance of final decrees and progress toward finishing the adjudication. Ms. Peters understands the importance of completing the adjudication in a timely manner with sound decisions that allow water users to effectively enforce their priorities. She is the right person for the job.

Sincerely,

  
Holly Franz