

January 7, 2025

Rob Bird
rbird@mt.gov

RE: Comment on Associate Water Judge Applicant Bina R. Peters

Dear Mr. Bird:

Thank you for providing the opportunity to offer public comment on the applicants for Associate Water Judge. I am an attorney with 37 years of experience practicing law in Montana, primarily focusing on water law, agriculture, and real estate development and transactions. Over the past 14 years, I have had the privilege of working with and observing the work of Bina Peters. She brings a unique and well-rounded perspective to the field.

I first encountered Bina's work during her time as a clerk for Chief Water Judge Loble. Then, in 2011, when she assumed the role of Water Master, I had the opportunity to resolve issues with and present evidence and pleadings to her. She consistently demonstrated a pragmatic and solutions-oriented approach to water law, dealing effectively with water users and their counsel to address and resolve complex issues. Her forthrightness and deep knowledge of water law were highly valued by those who worked with her.

I have also had the experience of working alongside and opposing Bina in various contested water cases. Her clear understanding of both the expectations and legal entitlements of water users is evident. Her clients span a diverse range, including large ranches, developers, municipalities, ditch companies, irrigation districts, small agricultural operators, and homeowners. This broad range of experience has given her an exceptional depth and breadth of knowledge in all aspects of water law and related litigation.

Beyond her legal practice, Bina is a respected member of the Montana Water Law Bar. She has served as chair of the Montana Water Law Section of the State Bar of Montana and has generously shared her expertise through presentations at continuing education seminars.

Not only Bina's extensive experience across all areas of water law makes her an outstanding candidate for the role of Associate Water Judge, but also her calm and respectful demeanor. I wholeheartedly support her selection for this position.

Should you have any questions concerning the foregoing please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


RENÉE L. COPPOCK
Crowley Fleck PLLP