

**From:** [Gina L. Rafanelli](#)  
**To:** [Bird, Rob](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Recommendation for Associate Water Judge  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 2:17:08 PM

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Dear Water Court,

I am writing to support the appointment of Bina R. Peters to the position of Associate Water Judge at the Montana Water Court.

Our family has owned the White Rock Ranch in Madison County for over 35 years. The White Rock Ranch is located outside of Whitehall at the base of the Tobacco Root mountains and is a working cattle ranch.

We have been working with Bina for over eight years on the water rights owned by the White Rock Ranch. Bina's expertise has been instrumental to us as we navigated the readjudication process. She provided us with an education both generally and specifically about the nature of water rights and the ranch's claims. Her guidance through that process was smooth and professional. Further, Bina worked extensively on our behalf on an issue that emerged with respect to a ditch company that the ranch owns shares in. The issue involved multiple parties and had significant implications. She represented our interests while also working to help facilitate disparate interests. Her collaboration with other counsel and parties was critical to the process and demonstrated her abilities to work through issues with a spectrum of stakeholders. Bina's work has been exceptional.

Personally, Bina is always a pleasure to work with. She is very responsive and thorough. While it would be a loss for her private practice should she be appointed to this position, it would be a benefit to the Water Court and the state of Montana to have somebody of Bina's caliber in the role. We wholeheartedly recommend her to this position and would be happy to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Gina L. Rafanelli

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