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January 9, 2025

Chief Justice Cory Swanson
Montana Supreme Court
c/o Office of Court Administrator

Via Email Only: rbird@mt.gov

Re: Support for Bina R. Peters for Associate Water Judge Vacancy

Dear Chief Justice Swanson,

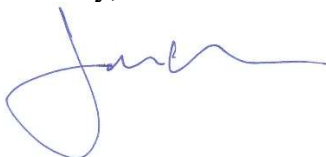
I am writing in support of Bina R. Peters for the position of Associate Water Judge.

I first met Bina in 2012 when I was hired as Chief Water Judge C. Bruce Loble's law clerk. At the time, Bina was a Water Master and was very gracious in helping me settle into my new position at the Water Court. Over the years we worked together at the Water Court, I was always impressed with Bina's work ethic, her willingness to help others at the Water Court, and her thorough and fair decisions based on the facts and law.

In addition to her time and experience at the Water Court, Bina now has nearly a decade of private practice experience under her belt. As a former Water Master and now a private practice attorney focused on water law myself, I see the enormous benefit of having experience from both the bar and the bench. During the time we have both been in private practice, I have always enjoyed the opportunities to work with Bina, either as opposing counsel or to simply have a phone call to discuss a water law question. I believe that Bina's private practice experience will serve her well in the position of Associate Water Judge.

It is apparent that Bina possesses a dedication to Montana Water law and the adjudication process. She has an even temperament and has earned the respect of her colleagues. Bina's experience as a former Water Master and private practitioner makes her an extremely qualified and well-rounded candidate for the Associate Water Judge position. I am certain that she will provide thoughtful leadership if appointed as the Associate Water Judge and recommend her without reservation.

Sincerely,



JEREMY A. MICHAEL