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Chief Justice Montana Supreme Court
c/o Rob Bird
215 N. Sanders Street
Helena, MT 59601

Via Email: rbird@mt.gov

Re: Letter of Support – Bina R. Peters - Associate Water Judge

Dear Chief Justice Swanson:

I write to support Bina R. Peters' application for Associate Water Judge with the Montana Water Court.

I am an attorney with Berg Lilly, PC in Bozeman, Montana. I am also a fifth-generation resident of the Gallatin Valley whose ancestors homesteaded in the Madison Valley west of Bozeman, and whose family continues to farm that same land. My practice for the past 23 years has been focused on real estate transactions, primarily of ranch and recreational properties. During that time, I have served as co-counsel with and worked opposite Ms. Peters a number of times. I know Bina Peters, have worked with her for years, and can confidently say she is well qualified to serve as Associate Water Judge.

Ms. Peters has a decade of experience as a private water rights practitioner, which bolsters her years of experience as a Water Master for the Water Court. She rolls up her sleeves to learn how water works on the ground and understands the technical and regulatory issues associated with water rights, along with the options available for resolution of these issues. Ms. Peters is an effective advocate for clients who employ her years of real-world experience as a water rights specialist to architect practical solutions to complex water issues. It is a great luxury to be able to confidently refer water right issues to Ms. Peters.

Further, I am always impressed by Ms. Peters' work ethic, attention to transactional deadlines, and her willingness to devote extra effort to meet these deadlines. She is hard-working, intelligent and thorough. I am confident she will bring these same qualities to the Court.

It should not be overlooked that Ms. Peters is located here in Bozeman, which will give her direct, hands-on access to the Court, a critical consideration in connection with the day-to-day administration of the Court.

I endorse, without hesitation, Bina R. Peters for the Associate Water Judge of the Montana Water Court. Ms. Peters' decade of experience as a private water rights practitioner, as well as her technical expertise, work ethic and judicial temperament make her well qualified for this position.

Very truly yours,


Kellie A. Morton