

**From:** [Ostrem, Eyvind](#)  
**To:** [Bird, Rob](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment in Support of Bina Peters for Associate Water Judge  
**Date:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 3:41:03 PM

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Dear Justice Swanson,

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

I have been a water master at the Water Court for five years and as Bina's first cousin, I have known her for decades. I can attest to many of the attributes others have identified in Bina. She is thoughtful, disciplined, and pragmatic. She is perceptive, personable, and a clear communicator. She has a genuine, calm demeanor.

In my time at the Court, I have also witnessed the reputation Bina has built. Both inside and outside the Court, Bina is regarded as an expert water law attorney who practices with humility and respect for parties and precedent. She is well suited for the bench.

But a water judge's responsibility extends beyond their own docket. Water judges guide the adjudication and serve as leaders and mentors to the ten water masters and as many judicial assistants that carry out the bulk of the adjudication.

These roles are vital to a fair and efficient Water Court, and this is where Bina's experience shines through. Bina has a background in the Water Court and a decade in private practice. She has represented a wide range of clients across the state, served as a leader in the Water Bar, and earned the respect of water users, judges, and opposing counsel alike. Her extensive experience gives her broad perspective to inform her leadership in the adjudication. It also means she is uniquely positioned to provide practical support to water masters with less legal experience outside the walls of the Court.

Bina's combination of character and experience make her an ideal candidate to lead the Water Court over the adjudication finish line. I believe she would be an excellent counterpart to Judge Brown and an asset to the Water Court and the people of Montana. I highly recommend her for appointment as Associate Water Judge.

Sincerely,

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