

**From:** [Steve Woodruff](#)  
**To:** [Bird, Rob](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Associate Water Judge Applications - Bina Peters  
**Date:** Friday, January 10, 2025 9:41:38 AM

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Dear Mr. Bird on behalf of the Water Court,

I am submitting this email as a letter of support for Bina Peters' application for appointment as Associate Water Judge of the Montana Water Court.

I have been practicing law in Montana for just over 25 years. My practice includes a large amount of real estate transactional work, which necessarily involves water right issues. When I run into technical water right issues that are beyond my level of expertise, I have frequently had the pleasure of working with Bina, or referring clients to Bina to address their water issues.

Bina has always been responsive and accommodating to my water right referrals, and through those referrals I have observed the trademarks of a first-rate lawyer. She puts the client first. She works to find solutions, not to create problems. She responds promptly to emails and phone calls. She follows through and completes her projects. She is polite and collegial. And above all, she has a clear understanding of the sometimes Byzantine structure of water law in Montana.

Having access to a practitioner like Bina is enormously important for water right users in Montana, where water is the lifeblood of the rural economy. Without knowledgeable, professional representation, water rights can be lost or compromised, and significant loss of property value can result. Bina has been a tremendous asset to her water right clients.

I have no doubt that she will likewise be a tremendous asset as Associate Water Judge. Her wealth of experience, knowledge, and outstanding work ethic will undoubtedly aid the Water Court to work through the continuing adjudication process in an efficient manner.

In sum, I strongly support Bina Peters' application for appointment as Associate Water Judge of the Montana Water Court. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment.

My Best Regards,

Steve

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