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Chief Justice Cory Swanson
Montana Supreme Court
215 North Sanders Street
Helena, Montana 59601

Regarding: Associate Montana Water Court Judge - Letter of Support for William C. Fanning

After very careful consideration, I strongly support William Fanning for the position of Associate Judge for the Montana Water Court based on knowing him and working with him for many years.

I have worked with many attorneys, water masters, and a few judges specializing in Water Law in Irrigation and Water Rights for 30+ years in 4 states and 6 irrigation Districts. I have known and worked with William Fanning for many years on many different water issues. William Fanning is the best person to be the Associate Judge of the Montana Water Court based upon his dedication to correctly interpreting and applying Montana Water Law as written and the Montana Constitution. William Fanning has many years of unique experience in Multiple Facets of legal Water Use, Montana Water Law Application, and settling disputes between multiple Water Users. I am really impressed with his real interest in all the facets of Water Law and Water Users. William Fanning volunteers many hours for many years being a member of Water Associations and attending Montana State committees concerned with water. I have been a board member and past president of the Montana Water Resource Association since 2012. William Fanning has been an active member and board member since 2018 working on various committees and working with various water users as a volunteer. William Fanning really understands Beneficial Use and is so knowledgeable in all facets of proper Water Use. William Fanning has an impressive amount of Real World experience in the application or arbitration of Water Law and an incredible ability to explain it to laymen or settle water disputes. I like his dedication to researching the exact wording and Precedents of Water Law Before explaining or Applying it. William Fanning has years of experience as a Montana Water Court Water Master, private water law attorney, a Montana Water Resource Association Board Member, a member of Montana State committees concerned with water.

William Fanning has proven he is passionately concerned with the proper completion of Montana's water right adjudication process in a timely manner and the incredibly important future administration of issues pertaining to such Water Rights and Water Law. After a lot of research and deliberation, I am more than confident that William Fanning is the Best Montana citizen to be appointed Associate Judge of the Montana Water Court.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James W. Brower". The signature is fluid and cursive.

James W. Brower
Manager
Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project
Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District #1
Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District #2
Savage Irrigation District
Intake Irrigation District