

January, 2025

Attention: Montana Supreme Court, Chief Justice
Montana Supreme Court
215 N. Sanders Street
Helena, MT 59601

Regarding: Associate Montana Water Court Judge - Public Comment

Honorable Chief Justice:

It is a pleasure to express my support for the appointment of Mr. William Fanning as Associate Water Court Judge.

As Executive Director of the Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA), an organization focused on irrigation and other water uses, I am extremely concerned with completion of Montana's water right adjudication process and the future administration of issues pertinent to such water rights. I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Fanning in one of his current capacities as a member of the MWRA Board of Directors. I am confident that Mr. Fanning's previous experience as a Water Master within the Montana Water Court and current ongoing experience as a private attorney representing numerous clients and providing legal counsel pertaining to water law related issues has prepared him with the expertise and knowledge necessary to fulfill the responsibilities demanded of the Associate Water Court Judge. I believe Mr. Fanning would facilitate a continuation of a knowledgeable, fair, balanced, and articulate approach to completion of Montana's water right adjudication and the future of the Montana Water Court.

Again, it is my personal pleasure to express support for the appointment of Mr. William Fanning to the position of Associate Montana Water Court Judge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael E. Murphy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Michael E. Murphy
2383 Recreation Rd. S.
Wolf Creek, MT 59648

cc. William Fanning
Rob Bird