

From: [Steve Cottom](#)
To: [Bird, Rob](#)
Cc: [Bill Fanning](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for William Fanning
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025 2:30:15 PM

January 9, 2025

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

Regarding: Associate Montana Water Court Judge

Honorable Chief Justice:

I would like to express my support for the appointment of Mr. William Fanning as Associate Water Court Judge.

As a water user in the Dillon area, I've been involved with water issues for the past 25 years. In recent years, I've had the pleasure of working with Mr. Fanning on cases involving the East Bench Irrigation District and the Clark Canyon Water Supply. He has been a workhorse in getting up to speed on how our Federal Bureau of Reclamation project interacts with State Water Rights. With his help and expertise, we have reached a successful resolution to long standing adjudication questions in our area.

I don't hesitate to recommend Mr. Fanning for the Associate Water Judge position. He has a great work ethic, and I think his experience in litigating complex water court cases and his commonsense approach to water issues will be a great asset for the court.

Sincerely,
Steve Cottom
Dillon, MT