



Montana State Legislature
MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Llew Jones
Appropriations Chair
House District 18

DURING THE SESSION
State Capitol Building
PO Box 200400
Helena MT 59620-0400
Phone: (406) 444-4800
Web: legmt.gov

COMMITTEES
Appropriations
Education Subcommittee

HOME ADDRESS
1102 4th Ave SW
Conrad MT 59425
(406) 271-3104
Llew.Jones@legmt.gov
WWW.VOTELLEWJONES.COM

12/30/2024

Honorable Chief Justice Corey Swanson
Supreme Court of Montana
Building 215 N. Sanders P.O. Box 203001,
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Chief Justice Swanson,

I am writing to express my strong support for the appointment of Julie Nordlund as Associate Water Judge. Having known Julie since her childhood on a farm and ranch near Conrad, Montana, I can attest to her deep-rooted understanding of our state's agricultural and water resource dynamics.

Julie's professional journey is marked by extensive experience in water rights adjudication. Over the past eight years as a Senior Water Master at the Montana Water Court, she has adeptly managed complex adjudication dockets, presided over evidentiary hearings, mediated disputes, and authored judicial opinions in strict adherence to Montana water law. Her collaborative work with district courts and water commissioners has been instrumental in advancing effective water management across the state.

Her upbringing on an irrigated farm has provided her with firsthand insight into the critical importance of equitable and sustainable water use for Montana's farmers and ranchers. This personal connection ensures that her judicial decisions are both informed and empathetic to the needs of our agricultural communities.

Julie's ability to foster strong relationships and promote collaboration is exemplary. Her familiarity with the Montana Water Court's operations, coupled with her knowledge of legislative and Department of Natural Resources and Conservation processes, positions her to transition seamlessly into the role of Associate Water Judge. Her combined experience in private practice and public service has honed her skills in navigating complex legal issues and achieving equitable resolutions.

With over two decades of legislative experience, I have witnessed the contentious nature of water disputes and recognize the necessity for judges who are intrinsically connected to our land and water resources. Julie embodies these essential qualities. Her unwavering dedication to completing the statewide water rights



Montana State Legislature
MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Llew Jones
Appropriations Chair
House District 18

DURING THE SESSION
State Capitol Building
PO Box 200400
Helena MT 59620-0400
Phone: (406) 444-4800
Web: legmt.gov

COMMITTEES
Appropriations
Education Subcommittee

HOME ADDRESS
1102 4th Ave SW
Conrad MT 59425
(406) 271-3104
Llew.Jones@legmt.gov
WWW.VOTELLEWJONES.COM

adjudication process and her commitment to shaping a sustainable future for Montana's water resources align perfectly with the Court's mission and vision.

I wholeheartedly endorse Julie Nordlund for the position of Associate Water Judge. I am confident that her appointment will bring unparalleled expertise, integrity, and fairness to the role. Thank you for considering her application. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Llew Jones
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee