

December 31, 2024

Chief Justice Swanson  
Montana Supreme Court  
215 N. Sanders St.  
Helena, MT 59601

**RE: Support for Julia Nordlund for Associate Water Court Judge**

Dear Chief Justice Swanson:

Congratulations on your recent election to the Supreme Court. My name is Ross Johnson, and I am a partner at the law firm of Kovacich Snipes Johnson, P.C., in Great Falls, Montana. I grew up farming and ranching north of Conrad, Montana, and spent a lot of time moving hand lines and wheel lines through muddy fields and clouds of mosquitoes. As you likely already know, Julia also grew up farming and ranching north of Conrad. I have had the pleasure of knowing her and her family since we both were little, and have watched as her hard work, great demeanor, and excellent judgment has propelled her to where she is today. She knows what it takes for a family to scratch out a living in rural Montana--and how vital our water resources are to both agriculture and the communities supported by agriculture.

I have had the opportunity to review several water master decisions authored by Julia during her time as a water master. She has a command of the applicable law and is a great writer. Although I do not know the background of the other candidates, I do know that Julia adds real world experience of actually using water to make a living in addition to her firm grasp of the law. I cannot imagine a candidate more well suited for this position than Julia. Thank you for your consideration.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Ross T. Johnson

RTJ:dak