

Honorable Cory Swanson
Chief Judge
Montana Supreme Court
Helena, MT 59601

Chief Judge Swanson,

I am Gene Curry and I am writing this letter of support for Ms. Julia Nordlund. I am a farmer-rancher and irrigator from Valier, MT with both private water rights and shares in an irrigation company. My family and I spent nearly 20 years in Montana Water Court defending our private water rights, so I am very familiar with what the water court and its' judges do for the State of Montana and Montana water users. I have served in leadership positions of several organizations and am currently the Chairman of the Montana Board of Livestock.

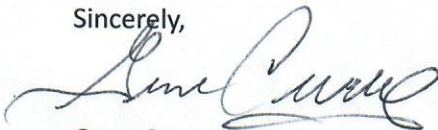
I have known Julie's family most of my life including her parents, aunts and uncles and even her grandparents. Her family has been involved in ranching and local businesses in the Valier/Conrad area for at least three generations. They have all been very good business men and women and well-respected members of the community. Julie's parents took over the family farm which was a diversified operation with livestock as well as dryland and irrigated crops. Living in the "Great American Desert" she was exposed to the importance of irrigation and water at a very young age at the family dinner table.

This early understanding of the value of water in Montana for both crop irrigation and livestock production, as well as human consumption gives Julie an outstanding foundation for her decisions. I believe Julie's journey from childhood on a farm, to law school, on to private practice working with an excellent water attorney, and as a Senior Water Master, builds a knowledge base and understanding of the value of water to both the individual water user, the State of Montana, and society as a whole. This, along with her exceptional ability to communicate and excellent family values has made, and will continue to make, Julie a valuable asset to the Montana Water Court.

I enthusiastically recommend Julie Nordlund for Associate Judge of the Montana Water Court. She represents thep distinctive blend of character, competence, and personality to continue to be an invaluable asset to the Water Court.

Please reach out to me directly at 406-788-5310 or genec@3rivers.net if you have any questions or would like any further information.

Sincerely,



Gene Curry