



"The Best in Line One Breeding"

Jack & Tresha Holden
3139 Valier Dupuyer Rd
Valier, MT 59486

Ranch 406-279-3301
Cell 406-450-1029
jtholden@3rivers.net
www.holdenherefords.com

December 18, 2024

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

RE: Support for Julia Nordlund for Associate Water Court Judge

Dear Chief Justice,

My name is Jack Holden, and I am the owner and manager of Holden Herefords. Holden Herefords is a 4th generation ranch located in Pondera County. We have raised registered Hereford cattle for over 70 years, and have lands that are serviced by irrigation water from the Pondera County Canal & Reservoir Company and also private water rights on Dupuyer Creek in the 41M Basin. I have previously served as President of the Board of the PCC&RC, and was also a director on the Montana Stockgrowers Board.

I have known Julia and her family for her whole life. Growing up on an irrigated farm and ranch in northern Montana, Julia has a strong connection to agriculture, land, and water. She understands the value of water and irrigation to local communities and agricultural interests. She is intelligent, hard working, and thoughtful in both her personal and professional life. Her eight years as a Water Master at the Montana Water Court have continued to strengthen her dedication, expertise, and ability to work with all sides involved to find resolutions. Her involvement in mediating and adjudicating disputes among water users and all parties involved is a great foundation and experience that is needed as our Associate Water Judge for Montana.

I have also had the opportunity to see and work with Julia in her role as a mediator for Dupuyer Creek. She has been utterly professional, thoughtful, and compassionate while doing an outstanding job of dealing with a very tense situation and high emotions among some of the water users. I was very impressed with how she handled the crowd, listened to their input, kept everyone calm, and explained the role of the Water Court and what the options were.

Julia is a Montana native with deep roots and a family. Montana's future depends on people like Julia who have great integrity, work, ethic, and thoughtfulness to help manage one of our most precious resources. She exemplifies the capability and character needed to serve in a critically important position like the Associate Water Court Judge.

Thank you for considering her application. I truly believe she is the best candidate for this position. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any more questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Jack Holden".