Coyle Law Firm PLLC

Water Rights Attorney

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Chief Justice Cory Swanson Office of the Court Administrator PO Box 203005 Helena, MT 59620-3005

Sent Via Email: rbird@mt.gov

Re: Appointment of Associate Water Judge

Dear Chief Justice Swanson,

I am writing in support of Julie Nordlund for the position of Associate Water Judge with the Montana Water Court. I have been working as a water rights attorney in Montana for over 25 years, in private practice and previously as a Water Master with the Montana Water Court. I worked with Julie in private practice, then appeared before her after she left private practice to serve as a Water Master.

Julie's work at the Water Court involves water rights adjudication as well as matters related to water distribution involving District Courts and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. This experience, in addition to having experience in private practice, is important for an Associate Water Judge to understand the impact of the decisions of the Court. Julie has held public meetings for contentious matters and served as a mediator in water cases. She is congenial and impartial, and has the legal skills and experience required to be an effective Associate Water Judge. I recommend her for this appointment.

Sincerely, Colleen A. Coyle