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**To:** [Bird, Rob](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Associate Water Judge - Support for Julia Nordlund  
**Date:** Saturday, December 21, 2024 5:22:56 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is in support of Julia Nordlund for the Associate Water Judge position. I am a water right consultant and have been working in the field of Montana water rights for over 15 years. I had the pleasure of working with Julia while she was an attorney in private practice in Bozeman. We worked together assisting clients defend their water rights. Julia was able to communicate with clients – explaining complicated and challenging situations to them clearly and thoughtfully. Julia was great at utilizing her resources, including experts, to obtain and understand complicated information. She was able to distill this information into strategies and recommendations for clients. And most importantly, in every case we worked on together, Julia displayed respect and professionalism to all parties – including opposing parties and council.

I continued to work with Julia as she migrated in her career from private practice to the role of Water Master at the Montana Water Court. I saw Julia's writing skills progress and her grasp of water law evolve. In her role as Water Master, we have worked together on developing processes around enforcement tabulations. Julia shows a willingness to roll up her sleeves, understand the details and work with a team. And although her orders have not always come down on the side of my clients, the analysis and thoughtfulness in her orders is second to none.

Julia understands the perspective of the claimant/council through her work in private practice and also understands the inner workings of the court. She is incredibly bright, hardworking, fair and honest. I believe she would make a great Associate Water Judge and offer my support for her.

Sincerely,

**Deborah Stephenson**  
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