

From: [taylor upham](#)
To: [Bird, Rob](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for Madeleine Weisz
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 1:25:03 AM

Your Honor,

As a member of the Blackfeet Tribe, water is not just a resource, but is vital to our people, our culture, and our way of life. The health of our rivers and streams is intertwined with the well-being of our community. That's why I'm writing to strongly recommend Madeleine ("Maddy") Weisz for the position of Associate Water Court Judge.

Maddy's deep respect for the land and its resources is evident. She understands that water rights are not just legal matters, but issues that impact people's lives, livelihoods, and cultural heritage. Her unwavering honesty, sharp intellect, and commitment to fairness give me confidence that she will approach each case with the seriousness and respect it deserves.

It is important that the person who is appointed Judge has a thorough understanding of Federal Indian Law and the Reserved Water Rights Doctrine. Maddy has experience in this unique area of law through her role in the adjudication of the St. Mary River Basin and her involvement in mediating a Tribal Water Compact case.

The adjudication process can be especially challenging for Tribes, who have distinct water rights and cultural connections to water resources. It is crucial that the appointed judge possesses impartiality and the ability to understand and respect Tribal sovereignty. Maddy's strong moral compass and commitment to justice make her uniquely suited to navigate these complexities.

Without reservation, I believe Maddy Weisz is an excellent candidate for Associate Water Court Judge. Her dedication to fairness, combined with her analytical mind and understanding of Montana's water issues, make her the ideal choice for this position.

Sincerely,

Taylor C. Upham