## Your Honor:

I am writing in support of Associate Water Judge Stephen R. Brown's application to remain as the Chief Water Judge for the State of Montana. Over the course of his tenure as water judge, Judge Brown has proven himself to be a thoughtful, fair, and objective judge. He has provided the water bar of this state with well thought through, consistent, legally grounded orders. It is clear that Judge Brown's career in private practice has led to an understanding of the importance of well-reasoned opinions based on the law. I am confident Judge Brown will continue to be an exceptional water judge. His quiet, but strong leadership style makes him an effective leader of the Water Court. As the Chief Water Judge, he has not only have his own case load to manage, but he is also be responsible for managing an office of water masters and staff. With his superior management skills and his experience as a judge, a private practice attorney, and managing partner of a large law firm, I am confident Judge Brown will continue be an effective leader of the Water Court.

Best Regards,

## **Dana Elias Pepper**

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