

From: [Eyvind Ostrem](#)
To: [Bird, Rob](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment in Support of Stephen R. Brown for Chief Water Judge
Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 1:15:47 PM

Dear Justice Swanson,

I am writing in support of Judge Stephen R. Brown's reappointment as Chief Water Judge.

As a Water Master, I had the privilege of working with Judge Brown for five years at the Water Court. Judge Brown is a respected leader within the Court. His door was always open, and he led by example with an incredible work ethic, a deep understanding of Montana water law, and a sincere commitment to Montana water users.

I have since moved into private practice and can attest to the value Judge Brown brings to water users navigating the adjudication process. Judge Brown issues clear and thorough decisions that help litigants efficiently resolve complex water rights disputes. He consistently ensures all parties are heard, and his calm, engaged demeanor inspires confidence in what can be daunting, emotional proceedings.

I look forward to the continued opportunity to practice before, and learn from, Judge Brown. The Water Court and the water users of Montana are well-served by Judge Brown as the Chief Water Judge and I highly recommend he be reappointed.

Sincerely,

Eyvind Ostrem

River and Range Law, PLLC

P.O. Box 477, Bozeman, MT 59771

Phone 406.451.3418

Email: eyvind@riverandrangelaw.com

Website: riverandrangelaw.com [riverandrangelaw.com]

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that dissemination, distribution or forwarding this communication is prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately and delete this message from any device or media where it is stored. Thank you.