



**MONTANA
FARM BUREAU
FEDERATION**

100 Red Mountain Drive, Suite 101
Bozeman, MT 59718
406-587-3153
info@mfbf.org | mfbf.org

October 29, 2024

Hon. Chief Justice Mike McGrath
Montana Supreme Court
c/o Beth McLaughlin, Office of the Court Administrator

Re: Nomination of Stephen R. Brown as Chief Water Court Judge

Dear Chief Justice McGrath:

The Montana Farm Bureau Federation would like to express sincere support for Judge Stephen Brown's appointment as Chief Water Judge of the Montana Water court. Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) is the state's largest agricultural organization representing nearly 20,000 member families.

Ensuring that senior water rights holders private property rights are protected has been and continues to be a priority of our membership. It is critical to our industry that the chief water judge understand the importance of their decisions on Montana farmers and ranchers. We appreciate the wealth of Judge Brown's experience, as well as knowledge and expertise that he will bring to the position.

We deeply value the information and perspective that Judge Brown has provided throughout the Comprehensive Water Review. His willingness to engage in that process as a member of the public demonstrates his true commitment to the functionality of our water rights system. Our interactions with him have always been positive. He is humble and approachable.

Judge Brown's experience, knowledge and commitment to his work is exemplary. For these reasons, we are honored to support him for Chief Water Judge. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and your consideration of our support.

Sincerely,

Scott Kulbeck

We Care for the Country