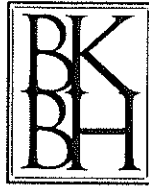


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October 31, 2024

Chief Justice Mike McGrath  
c/o  
Beth McLaughlin, Court Administrator  
[bmclaughlin@mt.gov](mailto:bmclaughlin@mt.gov)

RE: Statement of Support for Stephen Brown as Chief Judge of the Montana Water Court

Dear Chief Justice McGrath:

I am writing on behalf of the Senior Water Rights Coalition, an affiliation of senior water rights holders dedicated to upholding Montana's recognition and commitment to water rights in Montana. Our organization is committed to ensuring that water rights are administered fairly and in accordance with the law. It is with enthusiasm that we express our full support for the nomination of Mr. Stephen Brown to the Montana Water Court.

Mr. Brown's extensive expertise in water law, his unwavering impartiality, and his professional demeanor make him an exemplary candidate for the position. We believe his appointment will greatly benefit the judiciary and the citizens of Montana who rely on the fair adjudication of water rights.

Mr. Brown possesses a very accomplished understanding of water law, having dedicated decades of his legal career to this specialized field. His background, including his time as an Associate Water Judge, demonstrates his deep knowledge and commitment to furthering his expertise. More importantly, his practical experience attests to his comprehensive grasp of the complexities involved in water disputes.

In a field where decisions can significantly impact livelihoods, impartiality is paramount. Mr. Brown has consistently demonstrated an ability to navigate contentious cases with fairness and objectivity. His judicial temperament ensures that all parties are heard and that decisions are rendered based on the merits of each case.


Additionally, Mr. Brown's professionalism is evident in every aspect of his work. He is known for his attention to detail, thorough preparation, and clear, well-reasoned decisions. His ability to communicate complex principles of water law in an accessible manner is particularly commendable. This skill not only aids in the resolution of disputes but also fosters a greater understanding of water law among the public.

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Above all, Mr. Brown's steadfast commitment to following the law makes him an ideal candidate for the Montana Water Court. He approaches each case with dedication to legal principles, ensuring that his decisions are firmly rooted in the law. His respect for precedent and his thoughtful consideration of the implications of his rulings exemplify the qualities we seek in a judge.

In conclusion, the Senior Water Right Coalition wholeheartedly supports the nomination of Stephen Brown as Chief Judge of the Montana Water Court. We are confident that his appointment will benefit the integrity and effectiveness of the court.

Sincerely,



\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Thompson for the Senior  
Water Rights Coalition