

From: [David Baldwin](#)
To: [Mohr, Jason](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HJ14 - Comments to WPIC for Consideration
Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 9:01:02 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

HydroSolutions Inc (HydroSolutions) thanks the Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC) for allowing our comment on House Joint Resolution 14 (HJ14) regarding that resolution's request that WPIC "review the future role of the Montana Water Court and, if possible, make recommendations for the Water Court".

HydroSolutions is a leading water rights consulting firm in Montana, with active work in the areas of adjudication, new permit applications, change applications and expert services in water court proceedings.

Based on our decades of experience, HydroSolutions strongly believes the Water Court should continue its essential role litigating historical water rights claims and issuing decrees in the on-going statewide adjudication. Further, we believe the Water Court should become a permanent judicial entity entrusted with hearing all future water rights disputes. Because the Water Court, through its Judges and Water Masters, possesses a wealth of experience with Montana water rights legal issues, we believe this tremendous knowledge base should be kept permanently in place as the primary judicial body designated to hear and rule on water rights matters. We believe that the Water Court is uniquely capable of understanding the technical subject matter and "body of precedent" in the complex cases we deal with. Additionally, we believe the HJ14 should expand the role of the Water Court to administer water use complaints and all other water rights disputes, including all post-July 1, 1973 issues. This restructuring would have the added benefit of reducing District Court caseloads.

Respectfully submitted,

HydroSolutions Inc

And the following employees who regularly do water rights and water court work.

Tom Osborne
Luke Osborne
David Donohue
Mike Meredith
Dave Baldwin
Chris Carparelli



Tel: 406.443.6169 x 104
Mob: 406.431-7760

303 Clarke Street
Helena, MT 59601

dbaldwin@hydrosi.com

www.hydrosi.com [hydrosi.com]