

September 10, 2019

Exhibit 11

Water Law Section of the Montana State Bar
c/o Ryan McLane, Chair
P.O. Box 1155
Helena, MT 59624-1155

September 9, 2019

Water Policy Interim Committee, Montana Legislature
c/o Jason Mohr, Committee Staff
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

Re: Water Law Section's interest in gathering and presenting comments regarding HJ14

Dear Chairman Brown, and Members of WPIC:

The Water Law Section of the State Bar of Montana is an optional section, which members of the State Bar of Montana may choose to join. Currently 104 lawyers are members of the Water Law Section. The majority of these lawyers regularly deal with water law issues in Montana.

The Water Law Section strives to promote the interests of its lawyer members, their clients, and the general public. One purpose of the Water Law Section is to promote a better understanding of Montana water law, and to provide informational outreach concerning Montana water law.

The individual members of the Water Law Section have been monitoring HJ14 – the so-called 'Future of the Water Court' study bill since it passed last session. The Water Law Section believes this study bill is important to the future of water law in Montana.

At our annual meeting in August, the Water Law Section determined that it intends to provide public comments to WPIC concerning HJ14, and more broadly, the future of water law in Montana. To that end, the Water Law Section intends to internally survey its members and pass along all pertinent educational comments to WPIC. The Water Law Section hopes that the collective opinions and experiences of our members will prove useful to WPIC in identifying challenges and opportunities for the future of water law in Montana.

We invite WPIC to let us know if there is anything in particular that it would like us to address in our internal survey of Water Law Section members. Please feel free to direct any such request to me.

Water Law Section of the State Bar of Montana



By: Ryan McLane, chair