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December 16, 2021

Via Express Mail and E-Filing

Hon. Scott S. Harris
Clerk of the Court
Supreme Court of the United States
1 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20543

Re: Request for extension of time to file response to petition for writ of certiorari
The Montana State Legislature, et al. v. Beth McLaughlin
S. Ct. No. 21-859

Dear Mr. Harris:

I am counsel for respondent Beth McLaughlin. Petitioner filed a petition for writ of certiorari December 6, 2021 and it was placed on the docket December 9, 2021. According to the online docket and pursuant to Rule 15.3 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of the United States, a response is currently due January 10, 2022. Acting under Rule 30.4, respondent respectfully requests that the time for filing a response be extended by 30 days, to and including February 9, 2022. Counsel for petitioner, David Dewhirst, has informed me by letter that petitioner does not object to the requested extension.

This is respondent's first request for an extension of time to file a response. Good cause exists for the requested extension. Apart from this case, I am involved in multiple matters that tie up substantial amounts of my time in the latter weeks of December and much of January. In addition, the time of year and holiday season make it difficult for me and other lawyers and paralegals assisting me to devote the necessary amount of time to a brief in the Supreme Court. An extension of time will better enable preparation of a response that is focused and helpful to the Court.

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I appreciate your consideration. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy J. Cox", written in a cursive style.

Randy J. Cox

c: David M. S. Dewhirst
Dale Schowengerdt
Michael P. Manion
Beth McLaughlin