Jennifer Chavez
102 S 3rd St
Gunnison, CO 81230
Cell 928-707-3394
jchavez@gunnisoncounty.org

Dear Board of County Commissioners,

The Environmental Health Board makes important decisions for our community, particularly when it comes to wastewater. You have deliberately set out to appoint experienced members to the board, and it shows.

I am interested in being appointed to the board. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with an emphasis on chemistry and research entomology from Northern Arizona University. I have also worked in varying capacities of environmental health, public health, and water quality since 2013.

In the past, I have worked for Coconino County Environmental Health Division doing health inspections on pools and spas, as well as zoonotic and vector-borne disease surveillance. That research collaborated with top vector and disease researchers at Northern Arizona University and the National Park Service. I worked with the Museum of Northern Arizona's Spring Stewardship Institute researching freshwater springs by conducting surveys of springs dependent species, monitoring water quality and flow, and sampling soils across riparian habitats of the Colorado Plateau. That research allowed me to collaborate with tribal government officials in five separate tribes, and with US Forest Service professionals in 10 national forests. I have also worked as a contractor for the Smithsonian Institute doing water quality assessments and insect identification for ground beetles across the Colorado Plateau and the Ecuadorian Amazon rainforest. I am currently the Consumer Protection Specialist for Gunnison County, primarily performing health inspections on restaurants, child cares, and schools.

My environmental health experience and education gives me the strong ability to make science based decisions with a consciousness for sensitive ecosystems, the effects of changes on those systems, and how those systemic changes affect people, wildlife/habitats, and our health. My experience has also made me familiar with navigating local, regional, state, federal, and international codes and regulations.

I would appreciate an opportunity to talk with the board about how my experience would be of value if appointed to The Environmental Health Board. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jenn Chavez