John T. Ryan
1101 Van Tuyl Circle
Gunnison, CO 81230
802-578-4162
jtryaninc@gmail.com

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Gunnison County Administration Office
Attn: Gunnison Planning Commission
200 East Virginia Avenue
Gunnison CO, 81230

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife, Hedda, and I, moved to the Gunnison Valley in 2011. As some transplants do, our roots grew deeper, living six years in Crested Butte. Now we call the city of Gunnison home, as we build our first house together in Van Tuyl. We consider ourselves very lucky to have the ability to create a small, efficient home, in a time when housing is a major issue. Being the proud Vermonters that we are, we would not have predicted this future for ourselves, but this valley broke that assumption.

My studies in geography, as well as green building and community development at the University of Vermont, served as a springboard for my work with Dusty Sylvanson at Straw and Timber Craftsmen. For six years, I have interacted with many great clients, all from varying socioeconomic positions and different corners of our valley, from Mt. Crested Butte, Crested Butte South, Pitkin, Carbon Creek, and Gunnison. I have learned and engaged in progressive building techniques, built affordable housing, and played the role of site lead on a number of projects.

Having benefited from what this valley has to offer, I am now looking to give back and become involved in our community at a higher order. As yet a relatively new resident, I see the Planning Commission as way to build greater understanding of the land use regulations which guide this region towards smart and appropriate growth. As a professional in the building trades, I am routinely following and interpreting current building codes as well as striving to improve on them. I am eager to learn and administer such an integral document as the Land Use Regulation in Gunnison County. Given the diversity of this region, I understand that managing sustainable growth holds many challenges and is of upmost importance.

From mineral rights, to housing, and the future of recreation, I'd like to do my part to ensure that Gunnison grows in the right ways. Personal growth is also a goal of mine: to become a better steward of this unique valley.

Sincerely,
John Ryan