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Letter of Interest in Gunnison County Planning Commission Board Position

My name is Travis Scheefer. As someone who has always been passionate about the natural and built environment, I have a strong desire to serve on the Gunnison County Planning Commission Board so I can contribute more to how our community continues to evolve and grow. Gunnison County is a unique and amazing place that strongly integrates the landscape and communities it contains. I grew up in this valley, and after many years away, chose to return to Gunnison to call this place home for these reasons. I live close to downtown Gunnison and have my own practice as a licensed architect that specializes in modern, high-performance, sustainable homes that relate to the natural environment.

Over the past fifteen years I have mostly lived and worked in rapidly growing communities that have similar outdoor access to Gunnison, but larger populations. I lived in Bozeman Montana for 6 years starting in 2003, and during this time the Gallatin County (where Bozeman is the largest city) was ranked in the 100 fastest growing counties in the country. At that pace of growth, it was easy to observe changes - both good and bad - due to planning decisions. My awareness of the rapid development was also heightened because I was working to achieve my Masters Degree in Architecture at Montana State University during that time.

With a longing to return to Colorado, I ended up moving to Golden with my primary employment in Boulder. With the entire front range growing and developing at a blistering pace - it was again easy to observe changes in both the built and natural landscape. Working as an architect in Boulder gave me a healthy perspective on planning processes and regulations - almost every project I worked on required an enormous amount of collaboration from all parties to make progress.

When it became time to start raising a family, the decision to move to a small mountain community was an easy one. Ultimately, my wife and I choose Gunnison making the move here in 2018 from Golden. The Gunnison Valley holds a special place in my heart, having grown up here. I lived and went to elementary and middle school in Gunnison, and attended high school in Crested Butte. This has allowed me to develop close relationships with people at both ends of the valley and better understand the needs and wants of the county as a whole.

I believe I am a great fit for the planning board position with my interests, professional background, and commitment to positively contributing to our evolving community. I am open-minded and a great listener, can quickly process information, and can communicate well and articulate complex issues. As passionate as I am about design, I also love to build and have done many design and build projects. This brings a practical side to my vision, thought-process, and recommendations in this space. I am dedicated to improving this community, and when not working, you can find me enjoying our incredible outdoors - mountain biking, skiing, and doing plenty of other outdoor activities with my family.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Travis Scheefer