

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Stibnite Gold Project as part of the public permitting process. I know this project will have a positive impact on the environment, communities surrounding the site and Idahoans.

The Stibnite Gold Project would secure America's only source of antimony. Today, we predominately rely on China and Russia for this critical mineral, which is concerning given its importance. Antimony is used heavily in national defense applications, including everything from munitions to military uniforms. It is also key to the clean energy transition. In fact, Perpetua Resources plans to supply antimony to large-scale battery maker Ambri, so they can commercialize their technology. The antimony from Stibnite could help power approximately 1 million homes with solar power for the battery's 20+ lifespan. I support the Stibnite Gold Project using the Burntlog route because I want to help America reach our clean energy goals and remain a safe country.

The Stibnite Gold Project is the type of project our state needs. It has been in regulatory review for the past six years. During this time, public comments and scientific analysis has helped to improve the plan. But now it is time to move it forward. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to permit this project, using the 2021 Modified Mine Plan presented by Perpetua Resources in the SDEIS, as expeditiously as possible.

Cecil Austin