

I am proud to welcome Perpetua Resources into our state and proud to support the Stibnite Gold Project. The project will produce America's only source of antimony, a mineral our national security and clean energy future depends upon, and leave the site in better condition than it is today. I hope you will take the time to consider my comments on why you should move to permit the project.

There are many checks and balances in place to ensure Perpetua Resources follows through on its promises to restore the site. In fact, the company is required by law to set aside all of the money it needs for restoration before mining can begin. However, I am not worried about Perpetua staying true to its word. The company has already started restoration work at the site. They have planted more than 60,000 trees to help reduce the amount of sediment going into the river, installed solar energy panels at site to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improved miles of road along the river to protect fish habitat. However, what's more impressive to me is the changes the company has made following the comments they received on the DEIS. They took the feedback from stakeholders to heart and looked at ways to further improve the plan. In the 2021 Modified Mine Plan, the company has eliminated the Fiddle Development Rock Storage Facility, which shrinks the footprint by 168 acres, the size of the Hanger Flats pit was reduced by 70%, mined material was reduced by 10% and there is no longer the need for long-term water treatment. With the additional improvements, I feel strongly that the project should move forward – especially because it would allow us to secure a domestic source of antimony.

I encourage the USFS to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward and permit Perpetua Resources' project as outlined in the 2021 Modified Mine Plan. At this point, the Stibnite Gold Project has been studied by regulators for the last six year. That is enough. Now, it is time to let Perpetua get to work.

Fred Oswald