

America desperately needs antimony. This mineral is used in munitions, large-capacity storage batteries, fire retardants and more. Currently, we are entirely dependent on foreign countries to provide this mineral, which is why I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project. This project can stop our import reliance on antimony.

Given the history of the region, I was a bit skeptical when I first heard about this project, but it is clear that Perpetua is going out of their way to put environmental safety and restoration front and center. Especially with the improvements the company made in its 2021 Modified Mine Plan. For example, in the SDEIS the company eliminated the Fiddle Rock Development Storage facility, which resulted in a 168-acre reduction in the project footprint. They also made improvements to water quality, so no long-term water treatment will be necessary after mining is complete. After looking at the tools provided by the USFS, I feel strongly that the Modified Mine Plan is the best option moving forward. It addresses the purpose and need of the agencies in a manner that provides environmental advantage and economic feasibility over the other analyzed alternatives. With so much promise for the site's future, I hope the consideration of no action is removed from the table. There is finally an opportunity to restore the site and help secure America's source of antimony, a designated critical mineral.

As the U.S. Forest Service and other state and federal agencies review the 2021 Modified Mine Plan and determine the course of action, I encourage you to consider the positive benefits Perpetua Resources will have on Idaho, especially now that the company has reduced its environmental footprint and made further improvements to water quality. This truly is a win-win opportunity for Idahoans and the environment. After years of careful scrutiny by regulators and the community, it is time for us to make these benefits a reality.

Micheal Barry