

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.

Thanks to Perpetua Resources' agreement with Ambri, the Stibnite Gold Project will enable the production of batteries with over 13 Gigawatt hours of clean energy storage. That is more than 8x the total additions to the entire U.S. energy storage market in 2020. With no current domestic source of antimony, the Stibnite Gold Project is not an opportunity we can let pass us by. I have reviewed the company's improved plans using the Burntlog Route and I believe they've outlined a path to protect the environment and minimize impacts. The Stibnite Gold Project should be allowed to move forward.

I appreciate your time and thoughtfulness in the review process. The U.S. Forest Service has not cut any corners over the past 6 years analyzing the project and I've appreciated the opportunities to provide feedback. For the reasons I stated in my letter above, please permit the Stibnite Gold Project.

Hugh Smith