

Dear USFS,

This project is about so much more than gold. My biggest concern right now is America's reliance on Foreign Minerals. As we make every effort to become less fossil fuel dependent, America desperately needs antimony. This mineral is used in the mega-capacity storage batteries of the future, 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 dependence.

I support the 2021 Modified Mine Plan of the SDEIS. Under this plan, Perpetua Resources will help mitigate the damages left by previous mining projects, bring hundreds of well-paying jobs to Valley County and provide the only US mined source of antimony. This project would allow our nation to rely less on foreign countries for critical minerals and reduce our carbon footprint by sourcing minerals at home.

Our Idaho backyard will be the place that sets new improved standards in mining operations.

Environmental regulations are stricter in the United States and when minerals are sourced in this country we do not have to expend as much energy and resources transporting them to their final destination or deal with international conflicts. . The 2021 Modified Mine Plan is economically and technically feasible. It also improves upon the company's originally submitted plans. With the new updates, Perpetua has eliminated the need for long-term water treatment, kept water temperatures on site at or below current temperatures, improves water quality and shrinks the size of the project footprint by 13 percent. It is clear it is the best choice moving forward.

Thank you for reviewing my comments. Again, after the USFS has lead a rigorous review process, I urge you to permit Perpetua Resources' carefully thought out plan as outlined under the 2021 Modified Mine Plan.

Ken Francis