

Thank you for the opportunity to comment during the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement period for the Stibnite Gold Project. This project could help stop our import reliance on China and Russia for antimony and improve environmental conditions at an abandoned mine site. It is important to me to see this project move forward.

Our lives depend on mining. We need minerals for our cell phones, computers, cars and pretty much everything in between. While mining is crucial, we cannot sacrifice our environment in the process. Mining must be done responsibly. When the USFS identified Perpetua's improved plan as its preferred alternative, it signaled they believe the company can limit community and environmental impacts and mine. Reviewing the SDEIS, I was pleased to see the preferred alternative would improve water quality conditions in Meadow Creek and the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River by removing the repurposing legacy tailings. The conditions on site are not going to fix themselves. Perpetua Resources is our best bet to improve water quality.

The Stibnite Gold Project is important to Idaho, our national security and clean energy future. Regulators have been reviewing the project for the past 6 years. This time has allowed the project to improve and, now, I encourage you to permit the project as quickly as possible.

Gerald Vanderzanden