

**CLARK KAUFFMAN**

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## House of Representatives State of Idaho

November 15, 2022

U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest  
Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor  
500 North Mission Street, Building 2  
McCall, ID 83638

Dear Ms. Linda Jackson,

As state representative for Idaho's Legislative District 25, I am committed to building the best future for our state. Following the release of the supplemental draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Stibnite Gold Project, I would like to express my support for the incredible opportunity put forward by Perpetua Resources.

As a Vietnam veteran, and a former member of the U.S. Air Force, I understand firsthand the strategic importance of certain minerals to our national defense. We cannot rely on foreign nations, like China, to supply the resources our military needs to defend our way of life. Especially when we have those minerals in our own backyard. Approving the Stibnite Gold Project will help us secure our national defense and we cannot ignore the importance of this project in doing so. Beyond our national defense, this project will positively affect our local communities and be a huge boon for our state's economy.

I was very impressed with Perpetua Resources' diligence and commitment to working with our communities. Understanding a project of this size will have impacts on a multitude of stakeholders in the area and throughout Idaho, Perpetua has created and executed a plan that gives local communities an equal voice to provide input on and develop accountability mechanisms for the project. They've done this through a Community Agreement with eight local communities in 2018 that lead to the creation of the Stibnite Advisory Council (SAC). The Stibnite Advisory Council was created to be a basis for collaboration with local governments to share information, collect and incorporate feedback, refine details, identify opportunities for partnerships, and enter into formalized agreements and partnerships that address impacts and promote social and economic opportunities. Such commonsense engagement on the part of the investor is cornerstone to sustainable commercial success in Idaho.

I was also encouraged by Perpetua's interest in investing in our state. According to an independent economic analysis, the Stibnite Gold Project will generate more than \$150 million in state and local tax revenues during its 20-year duration. Meanwhile, local impacts on the economy from direct job creation are estimated at more than \$18 million per year during operations alone.

This project is the type of long-term economic and community investment that our state desperately needs.

The U.S. Forest Service, through its evaluation of the proposed project and release of its supplemental EIS, has provided Idaho with invaluable guidance. And I am thankful for the opportunity to comment on this project again. And with that, I urge you to permit Perpetua Resources Idaho's modified mine plan because it is time to move this project forward.

Respectfully,



Rep. Clark Kauffman  
Legislative District 25, Seat B