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## **SENATOR FRED S. MARTIN**

November 16, 2022

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

Dear Supervisor Jackson,

As a fourth-generation Idahoan, the environmental health and economic growth of our state is very important to me. Therefore, after careful review I would like to voice my support for the Stibnite Gold Project. In the Idaho State Senate, I have fought for opportunities that will help our citizens succeed. Looking at the facts, this project would clearly provide essential private investment into our economy and environmental revitalization.

Once approved, Perpetua Resources will invest \$1 billion directly into our economy, providing sales to our local businesses and up to 1,000 new jobs for our residents over the 20-year span of the project. The company has committed to hiring, contracting, and purchasing supplies and services locally whenever possible. This will generate more than \$300,000 in yearly property taxes, and almost \$500 million in state and federal income taxes over the duration of the project.

Additionally, our state needs private investment to revitalize the Stibnite area. The government previously tried to repair the legacies left behind from over a century of mining, but there are still over 10 million tons of tailings and waste rock littering the project site. This project would reprocess and safely store these materials and prevent the negative impacts they cause on water quality while also repairing over 12 miles of waterways. Perpetua Resources is committed to reclaiming and restoring this land just as much as mining it, this is exactly what our state needs.

This summer they showed their commitment by rerouting streams away from historic mine waste and putting them back into lined stream channels to prevent future interaction with the waste. They've also planted over 60,000 trees and produced over 53,000 kWh hours of solar energy a Stibnite since they installed their solar panels over 5 years ago.

I hope you will take my comments into consideration and permit Perpetua's 2021 Modified Mine Plan. This project is a huge opportunity and investment in our state, and I urge you to move this process along in an efficient manner.

Thank you for your time,

Senator Fred S. Martin

Senate Health & Welfare Chair