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**Idaho State Legislature**

**700 West Jefferson Street**

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

Greetings Ms. Jackson and Staff:

After reviewing the recently released Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Stibnite Gold Project, I am once again writing to express my support and hope you will take my comments into consideration. This project is an opportunity to improve years of environmental degradation left in the region from legacy mining while bringing economic prosperity to Idaho. I have visited the site and believe this project will greatly improve the environment.

As Chairman of the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee, the economic benefit of the Stibnite Gold Project makes its approval an extremely high priority to me. This project will be a $1 billion investment in Idaho, which will bring hundreds of jobs into the state and contribute significant local and state tax revenue. Idaho continues to rank among the lowest in the country for per capita income and wages. Perpetua Resources would employ between 500-1,000 employees during construction and upward of 200 employees during closure and reclamation.

An independent study was completed in 2017 and found that over the 20-year duration of the Stibnite Gold Project, an estimated $150.9 million will be generated in state and local tax revenues. Additionally, the total income tax payments over this period from employees of the project are estimated to reach approximately $448.2 million. Schools, law enforcement, and local governments would see approximately $300,000 annually from property taxes alone. We cannot ignore the economic benefits of a project like this. Particularly how it will benefit the local communities. These economic impacts are vital to the future of our State, and why we need this project to continue. It is important that the U.S. Forest Service permit this project.

We also cannot ignore that they have almost 150 million pounds of antimony up at Stibnite. I care deeply about protecting our national security and our way of life. The global pandemic demonstrated how vulnerable our economy has become since we offshored most of our mining and domestic manufacturing capabilities. Antimony is an important strategic defense mineral and from what I understand there are no active antimony mines in the US. Instead, we rely on China and Russia for a material used in every single bullet our military fires.

This project provides a unique opportunity to provide economic revitalization to rural Idaho, restore a brownfield mining site and to secure a mineral key to maintaining our national security.

I look forward to this process moving along in a timely manner and seeing this project through to completion.

Please keep my comments in mind,

Jim Patrick

Senator Jim Patrick