

# Council School District

P. O. Box 468 101 E. Bleeker Avenue Council, ID 83612

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Clete Edmunson – Superintendent/ Secondary Principal

Jenny Grooms - Elementary Principal

Mindy Ivey – District Clerk

Kari Dawn Iveson-Secretary/Registrar

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Ms. Linda Jackson  
Stibnite Gold Project  
500 N. Mission Street, Building 2  
McCall, ID 83638

Dear Ms. Jackson,

I would like to express my support for the permitting of the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Perpetua Resources Idaho as it is an all-around win for our state and local community. Along with the many economic benefits the project will bring, Perpetua Resources has already proven its commitment to becoming a valuable community partner, especially to Council schools.

There is no denying Idaho's economy has been cruising along over the last several years with unbelievable, rapid growth. However, it is important that we do not rest on our laurels, especially given the sudden global pandemic. Rather, we must continue supporting opportunities for more economic opportunities.

The Stibnite Mining Project is that economic opportunity. The SDEIS indicated that *"Both the Valley County and Adams County comprehensive plans reaffirm the importance of natural resources to their communities' economies (Adams County 2006; Valley County 2018a). The Valley County Comprehensive Plan includes goals and objectives pertinent to the SGP to ensure mining remains a viable element in Valley County's economy; to ensure new industrial activities consider long-term impacts and benefits on the local economy and environment; and, to maintain the role of the timber industry, tourism, outdoor recreation, mining, and agriculture in the local economy. Relevant goals under the Adams County Comprehensive Plan for the SGP include to provide an economically viable environment that builds and maintains a diverse base of business."* (3-2)

Perpetua Resources hasn't mined one mineral, yet they have already spent more than \$300 million in the state since exploration of the area began in 2009. State and local tax coffers will take in an estimated \$218 million in direct and indirect taxes from the project. These are revenues that we may not otherwise be able to generate that can be directed to state and local projects in need of funding.

The Stibnite Mining Project is the perfect opportunity to add more stable jobs to our economy. It would directly employ 600 to 700 people during construction. Once the mine is operational, Perpetua Resources expects to provide roughly 500 jobs with an average yearly salary of approximately \$80,000. This is in stark contrast to the current \$35,000 in the surrounding area.

Perpetua Resources has also shown its willingness to be an active participant in the community. Significantly, they have done a tremendous amount of work with our local schools. In addition to collaborating with school districts for a tree planting campaign, they have worked with the Council Schools to support our Elementary Reading program, our sports programs and helped us fund much needed technology in our classrooms. They have also supported our 4-H programming, community center and local library.

It is for these reasons; I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to adopt the Modified Mine Plan with access via the Burntlog road laid out by Perpetua Resources and your selected Alternative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clete Edmunson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Clete Edmunson  
Superintendent  
Council School District