



Idaho House of Representatives

700 West Jefferson Street
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0038

November 30, 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. Jackson,

As an Idaho state representative, I am invested in finding new ways to ensure a better future for all Idahoans. That is why I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project under consideration in the recently released supplemental draft Environmental Impact Statement. This project proposed by Perpetua Resources is an opportunity that will provide significant economic prosperity to our state. I applaud the U.S. Forest Service in their careful examination of the project, and I am encouraged by your decision to designate Perpetua's 2021 MMP as the preferred alternative.

Having studied economics, I can recognize the significant impact this project will have on not just the communities near Stibnite, but the entire statewide economy. Perpetua Resources is committed to hiring upward of 1,000 people during construction and another 200 or so during shut down and reclamation. Even better is that Perpetua is committed to looking at Idahoans first to fill these jobs which will pay in the neighborhood of \$80,000 a year - a stark contrast to what many of the service and tourism positions in Valley County currently pay.

It was great to see the supplemental call out that the employment and income opportunities from the project would mainly support Idahoans. The report says "Construction and operation of the SGP would provide jobs and income for both individuals directly employed for the SGP, as well as for other individuals whose employment and incomes would be indirectly or induced by SGP's activities. Most of these employment and income impacts would support Idaho residents, of which a portion would be Valley and Adams counties residents. Given the local area's population and current low unemployment conditions, the SGP would result in an in-migration of up to 200 individuals and another 230 dependents for SGP-related employment opportunities. Project-related employment opportunities would have the potential to affect the labor supply for other local employers needing to backfill open positions." Executive Summary, page 29

Additionally, the tax revenues from this project will also reach every Idahoan. This project will generate more than \$150 million in state and local taxes and \$300,000 annually from property taxes alone would go toward critical public works endeavors, like our schools, first responders, and local governments.

Finally, a stronger economy with investments and activity like the Stibnite Gold Project will attract more new businesses and enable continued growth throughout the state. This is an opportunity Idaho and specifically my legislative district cannot ignore.

I highly encourage you to get this project started as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Megan Blanksma".

Rep. Megan Blanksma, District 8B