



Idaho House of Representatives State of Idaho

December 1, 2022

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

RE: Approve Perpetua Resources' Stibnite Gold Project

Ms. Jackson and USFS Staff:

As a newly elected member of the Idaho House of Representatives, I strive to make Idaho a great place to live. After reviewing the supplemental draft Environmental Impact Statement, I believe that Perpetua Resources' Stibnite Project will help to achieve a prosperous Idaho and I am confident that the project would positively impact hundreds of Idahoans.

Perpetua is planning a \$1 billion investment in Idaho. They intend to employ roughly 500-600 people with a yearly payroll of approximately \$34 million. This money will provide our communities and families with much needed economic opportunities. An independent study of the economic impacts from this project found that during the construction phase the direct impact on the economy would amount to \$18 million a year.

The majority of mining that previously occurred in the Stibnite area took place long before reclamation provisions were mandated by both the state and federal government. This left the area afflicted by deforestation and accelerated erosion. Perpetua has committed to repairing the damage, as outlined in their 2021 modified mine plan, and have promised to leave the land in a better condition than it is currently. They actually have already started the clean up process earlier this year and will continue to do so going forward and through the life of the mine.

The plan is designed for the company to be a good steward of the environment. Legacy issues will only be solved by private investment and Perpetua is the only option. Given the merits of the proposal, I urge the USFS to move forward with the 2021 modified mine plan. Idaho needs this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Durrant".

Rep. Melissa Durrant
Idaho House of Representatives - District 23 - A