



Idaho State Senate

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

December 10, 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,

Growing up in Idaho, I know firsthand the benefits of a strong natural resources industry. As the newly elected Senator for District 8, I understand how important the approval of the Stibnite Gold Project will be. The Stibnite Mining District has a long history but unfortunately has been left in a lackluster condition following decades of activity that occurred without the rigorous regulations in place today.

I recall my first Idaho National Guard annual training exercise in 1987, when the 116th Engineer Battalion deployed to an inactive lead-silver ore mine on Continental Mountain in Boundary County. Our unit's mission that summer was to help restore the areas surrounding streambeds and to mitigate metals leaching from the mine tailings left behind after many years of active mining at the site.¹ My experience there showed me how mining activities can pose substantial risks, and measures that can be taken during and after operations to mitigate or eliminate the risk of damage to our environment. While much remains to be done at the Continental site, lessons from there can guide efforts in other locations.

Perpetua's commitment to redevelop their site is a chance for the area to be restored without any taxpayer resources expended. Perpetua Resources staff tell me they are prepared to make a \$1 billion investment in Idaho, with part of that money dedicated to completing their 2021 MMP which includes a robust reclamation plan to ensure the site is returned to a healthy and thriving ecosystem.

The company has worked with regulators, stakeholders and the public in a rigorous permitting process. This is why I support the modified mine plan as part of the supplemental draft EIS. NEPA review started in 2016 and the process has included countless studies, technical reviews, analysis and responses to technical inquiries. The process has included 45 days of scoping, 75 days of public feedback in 2020 and now 75 days of public feedback as part of the supplemental draft EIS. In the past six years, the project has undergone regulatory review by multiple local, state, and federal agencies. I am confident that local, state, and federal regulations now in place will ensure protection of Valley County's valuable and vital natural environment while allowing for the economic benefits of both site restoration and extraction of valuable minerals necessary for Idaho's economy.

¹ Mitchell, Victoria E., *History of the Idaho Continental Mine, Boundary County, Idaho*, Idaho Geologic Survey Staff Report S-00-5, 2000, pp. 82-111, available at <https://www.idahogeology.org/product/S-00-5>.

Extensive effort has been spent on this project and it is time to continue moving it forward. Please move forward with Perpetua's Modified Mine Plan as identified as the preferred alternative in the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Geoff A. Schroeder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Senator Geoff Schroeder

Idaho State Senate, Legislative District 8