

America desperately needs antimony. This mineral is used in munitions, large-capacity storage batteries, fire retardants and more. Currently, we are entirely dependent on foreign countries to provide this mineral, which is why I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project. This project can stop our import reliance on antimony.

When regulators are reviewing a project, they are considering all the worst-case scenarios. Which is why I was pleased when I saw the SDEIS concluded that the risk of a spill large enough to have a negative impact on fish would be low. Additionally, regulators said they believe with Perpetua's planned spill response resources and trained responders that a spill from a vehicle traveling up to site would be promptly contained and cleaned up. These things are important and signal a larger cultural of safety and commitment to the environment. These are just two small examples of why I hope you will permit the Stibnite Gold Project using the preferred alternative.

Perpetua Resources wants to invest \$1 billion in our state, bring more than 1,000 jobs to rural Idaho and still provide access to Idaho's public lands. This is the type of project our state needs. After reviewing the project for six years, I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to move the project forward with the improvements laid out in the SDEIS.

russell Sheldon