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I am a metallurgist based in British Columbia, Canada. In my over 35 years in the industry, I have worked on operating gold and antimony operations and have been involved in the development of metallurgical processes for hundreds of mining projects, many of which have since gone into production. I also worked as the lead mineral processor through several intensive phases of metallurgical testing on the Stibnite Gold Project from 2010 to 2018, and co-authored the Feasibility Study Technical Report, written in 2020 and published in January 2021. I have had little direct involvement in the project since then, but I have been watching with interest its development.

Although I cannot comment on work done since the Feasibility Report, I do wish to comment that it was a privilege to be part of what I believe to be one of the best feasibility studies I have been associated with. The quality of the team was outstanding, both within the company and the consultants retained by the company.

Metallurgical technologies have evolved considerably since the mines in the Stibnite district last operated. Hydrometallurgical processes to recover the gold and safely neutralise the arsenic did not exist at that time, but are now very well established with a record spanning many decades of safe and environmentally sound operations. The project has therefore selected conventional and well-understood technologies. Further, while the technologies have been used worldwide American metallurgists are true leaders in the field, indeed the United States has an almost unique pool of capability ready to ensure the project is designed and operated correctly. It will be key that should the project advance, the facility is designed correctly, but no country is better equipped to achieve this than the United States.

This hydrometallurgical technology has another key additional feature. Where it has been used in “dirty” sites elsewhere, the reprocessing of process residues has led to the stabilisation of previously unstable arsenic. This is also well-established technology, practiced in Canada’s north in the 1990’s and 2000’s to eliminate a similar legacy from past roasting operations in a similar way to what is proposed for this project.

The flotation technology required to selectively recover the antimony was developed in the United States, while other more recent but well-established technological advances will allow for the production of ultra-high grade antimony concentrates, so vital for munitions production. There is no mined production of antimony anywhere north of the Mexican border, precious little anywhere in the Americas and no real prospect of ultra-high grade antimony sulphides being mined anywhere on the Continent for the foreseeable future. If the United States truly believes in the need for independent production of key strategic minerals, it is my opinion that this project must advance.

Respectfully,

Chris Martin