

Dear Ms. Jackson,

I am writing in support of the Perpetua Stibnite Gold Project in Idaho. I am the External Affairs Manager for Integra Resources with background in community development and sustainability. I urge the U.S. Forest Service to move forward by permitting the project as analyzed under the 2021 Modified Mine Plan Alternative in the October 28<sup>th</sup> Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I am a stakeholder relations professional with a background in community development, public health, and sustainability. I believe in the importance of a responsible domestic supply chain of critical minerals that adds value to local communities nearest these operations, and moves the nation towards a stronger and greener future.

As the External Affairs Manager for Integra, I have closely followed the evolution of the Stibnite Project with particular attention to the company's public outreach. What sets Perpetua (formerly Midas Gold) apart is that the company actually follows through on feedback received from the community. Through all phases of the Stibnite Gold Project, Perpetua has made efforts to engage with stakeholders via public meetings, office hours, community barbeques, webinars and electronic media. The culture of transparency and active public engagement identified a number of potential issues early on and allowed for development of appropriate mitigation strategies which are now included in the Stibnite Gold Project. The key outcomes resulting from stakeholder engagement include both project modifications and assistance to the community, such as:

- Working with community service providers to adequately plan for population growth associated with the project;
- Establishment of the Stibnite Foundation to support local residents;
- Placement of community leaders on the corporate board;
- Maintenance of public access roads through the mine site for recreationists to continue to access the Thunder Mountain area;
- Allowances for winter snowmobile access to unpaved trails, and perhaps most importantly;
- Development of the Burntlog access route as an environmentally sound alternative to the Johnson Creek Route, as analyzed in the SDEIS under the MMP Alternative.

In addition to acting on public feedback to improve the Stibnite Project, Perpetua offers the communities something more valuable: Jobs. The Stibnite Gold Project is the largest gold mine project under development in the United States. The project would invest over 1 Billion dollars of private capital in Idaho, create hundreds of stable high paying jobs, and spur economic development in rural Idaho communities. The annual income impact of the project during operations is estimated at \$29.3 million for local residents and \$71.6 million statewide (p. 4-602).

As someone who works with rural communities, I understand the importance of providing good jobs to Idahoans, especially those offering above average pay and benefit packages. I appreciate that the USFS agrees, as summarized in the discussion of public health impacts, on page 4-524: *"The 2021 MMP would make a significant contribution to the Valley County economy in terms of direct and indirect employment and wages during the life of the SGP. In addition, the 2021 MMP would generate significant tax revenues for various levels of government. The economic benefits associated with increased employment opportunities and tax revenues could lead to continued or improved access to health services, better nutrition, and better overall well-being for the local community."*

I urge the USFS to complete the permitting process as soon as possible in order for these community benefits to be realized. By incorporating Perpetua's project improvements into the updated mine plan considered in the MMP alternative, the USFS has met the purpose and need to minimize environmental and socioeconomic impacts resulting from the project. While the project and the modifications in the mine plan further improve the environmental outcomes at the site relative to the DEIS, the local economic benefits in conjunction with net-positive environmental outcomes warrants immediate approval of the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Hendrickson", written over a horizontal line.

Emily Hendrickson

External Affairs Manager

Integra Resources

DeLamar Mining Co.