

**IDAHO RETAILERS ASSOCIATION**  
**IDAHO LODGING & RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION**  
*The Eyes, Ears and Voice of the Retail and Hospitality Industries in Idaho*

January 5, 2023

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

**RE: Stibnite Gold Project**

Payette National Forest Supervisor,

I am writing to express my full support of Perpetua Resources and the Stibnite Gold Project. Over the past several years Perpetua has shown its commitment to Valley County and the state of Idaho and I encourage you to permit Stibnite Gold Project under the 2021 Modified Mine Plan Alternative, as outlined in the supplemental draft EIS. If the Stibnite Gold Project goes into production, Idaho would see a huge economic benefit. As summarized in the draft EIS, Perpetua plans to invest \$1 billion in the state, contribute over \$100 million in state and local taxes during mining and make improvements to roads and the power grid near the site.

The company has also made a pledge to hire locally whenever possible and plans to provide around 600 jobs for Idahoans throughout the life of the project. Stibnite Gold mine salaries will be approximately two times higher than the local salary. It is impossible to ignore the positive trickledown effect an investment of this size would have on our community and economy. These will be high paying jobs, allowing people affordable housing and providing disposable income to support local businesses and re-invest in their communities. These indirect effects and economic benefits will directly support a broad range of retail services in Idaho, including not only mining-related service sectors, but also retailers, restaurants, general services, the hospitality industry and other Idaho owned business establishments. The current recreation and tourism-based economy of Valley County can be strengthened with the addition of stable, high-paying jobs providing good benefits to employees.

Perpetua wants to restore the rivers, wildlife and habitat near the Stibnite Gold Project site. We should let them. Please permit the Stibnite Gold Project and continue to move this important project forward.

Please keep my comments in mind,

*Pam Eaton* | President/CEO

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