



**IDAHO FREEDOM  
FOUNDATION**

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

Dear Ms. Jackson,

On behalf of the Idaho Freedom Foundation, I am writing today to urge your support for the proposed new development at the Stibnite Mining District as outlined by Perpetua Resources in the supplemental draft Environmental Impact Statement. Antimony trisulfide is essential to national defense as a key component for munitions yet there is no U.S. mined supply. Perpetua plans to re-establish a domestic supply of the critical mineral antimony as a by-product of one of the highest-grade open pit gold resources in the United States.

From a purely economic standpoint, the proposed Stibnite Gold Project could be a game changer for Idaho. Now more than ever, as many communities continue to reel from the recent economic downturn, we need this kind of private investment.

By working with local vendors, suppliers, and contractors, the company has already spent more than ten years and \$88 million in Idaho on this project. It has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars of its own money into improving our roads and infrastructure around the site of the proposed development, both enhancing safety for Idahoans and protecting the waterways from runoff and sedimentation. All of this investment is happening before the actual project has even been approved.

According to Perpetua Resources' plan for restoration and operations, the project would directly employ over 500 Idahoans, with annual payroll in the millions during the construction phase alone. During operations of the mine, it would provide hundreds of jobs for the community, with annual payroll of about \$42 million. These are the kind of good-paying jobs that rural Idahoans need.

Positive economic benefits aside, the proposed Stibnite Gold Project would also help Idaho regain its leadership role in the development and production of antimony, which has the distinction of being considered a critical mineral for its use in the national defense, energy, and aerospace industries. Throughout World War II, Stibnite was a boon for antimony production, with the site accounting for roughly 90 percent of our nation's total antimony supplies.

Sincerely,

Fred Birnbaum  
Director of Legislative Affairs  
Idaho Freedom Foundation