

Perpetua Resources has been a member of our community for the past decade. During this time, the company and its employees have become wonderful champions and supporters of Idaho. They've volunteered their time in our schools and given generously to community causes. Perpetua Resources' track record of following through on its promises and doing the right thing gives me the confidence to write in support of permitting the Stibnite Gold Project.

Perpetua Resources made a lot of improvements to its plan after the last comment period. The community's feedback made the Stibnite Gold Project better. In fact, regulators identified Perpetua's plan as their preferred alternative in the SDEIS. This is a big deal and signals that regulators believe Perpetua can safely mine the site and limit its impact on the environment and surrounding communities. We need the minerals from this project. Now that Perpetua has eliminated the need for long-term water treatment, improved water temperatures on site and reduced the size of the project, the Stibnite Gold Project should move forward.

The Stibnite Gold Project is the kind of mining project we should pride ourselves on in the United States (U.S.). The project will clean up legacy issues while helping bolster the local economy (our community) and national economy by supplying the minerals we need to live our every day's lives in a time when our supply chains have been extremely disrupted. It's time to stop fighting mining in our backyards and promoting mining in unfriendly countries like China and Russia, who we have made ourselves dependent on for our mineral supply needs. It's time to say no to the environmental groups fighting this project who eagerly take donations to pay attorneys to fight, yet they do nothing to be part of the solution by protecting, enhancing, or improving the environment. Instead, they spend their funding fighting private companies who are working tirelessly to do the right thing for our communities and our environment. It's time to open our eyes and say yes to the environmental review process that the project is going through and trust that the process will ensure regulatory compliance for the Stibnite Gold Project.

I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to advance the Stibnite Gold Project environmental review process. The permitting process is designed to advance the best plans possible. I believe the work of regulators over the past six years is proof this is what is happening with the Stibnite Gold Project. The thorough review process has been beneficial; however, there should be no more delays. The project should move forward in a timely manner.

Sara Thorne