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First name: Steven

Last name: Myers

Organization: Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

Title: Senior Program Manager

Comments: Supervisor Linda Jackson

Payette Forest Supervisor

U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest

500 North Mission Street

McCall, ID 83638

Dear Supervisor Jackson,

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) supports the permitting of the Stibnite Gold Mine Project. The region supports this sustainable project that meets a high standard of care; increases North American critical mineral supply; and offers remediation of a legacy brownfield site that would enhance an area in need of sustainable development.

The project calls for restoring the legacy site that had been left abandoned after decades of mining. PNWER supports the plan to improve water quality and fish habitat by cleaning up the millions of tons of waste rock and tailings that slowly leach metals and send sediment into nearby ground and surface water. The improvements to the environment are an important part of this project and PNWER's support

American dependence on foreign minerals has doubled in the last 20 years according to the U.S. Geologic Survey. This means that in order to have a vibrant economy, continue to lead in advanced manufacturing and technology development, we have to rely on outside nations. The Stibnite Gold Project is desperately needed as it will be the only North American source of mined antimony in the country and diversify our access to an important critical mineral.

The Stibnite Gold Project will create more than 1,000 well-paying jobs and add considerably to the regional, state and national economies. Direct, indirect and induced federal taxes are estimated at more than \$500 million and state and local taxes are estimated at more than \$200 million over the construction and operating life of the mine. This revenue is important as the region continues to recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

For these reasons, we urge you to move forward on permitting of the Stibnite Gold Mine Project. Please let us know if you would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

Senator Mike Cuffe
PNWER President 2020-2021
Chief Executive Officer
Montana State Legislature PNWER