

America desperately needs antimony. This mineral is used in munitions, large-capacity storage batteries, fire retardants and more. Currently, we are entirely dependent on foreign countries to provide this mineral, which is why I am writing in support of the Stibnite Gold Project. This project can stop our import reliance on antimony.

I support the 2021 Modified Mine Plan of the SDEIS. Under this plan, Perpetua Resources will help mitigate the damages left by previous mining projects, bring hundreds of well-paying jobs to Valley County and provide the only domestically mined source of antimony in the country. This project would allow our nation to rely less on foreign countries for critical minerals and reduce our carbon footprint by sourcing minerals at home. Environmental regulations are stricter in the United States and when minerals are sourced in this country we do not have to expend as much energy and resources transporting them to their final destination. The 2021 Modified Mine Plan is economically and technically feasible. It also improves upon the company's originally submitted plans. With the new updates, Perpetua has eliminated the need for long-term water treatment, kept water temperatures on site at or below current temperatures, improves water quality and shrinks the size of the project footprint by 13 percent. It is clear it is the best choice moving forward.

Perpetua Resources wants to restore the rivers, wildlife and habitat near the Stibnite Gold Project site. We should let them, especially considering the permitting process has worked and helped the company identify how to improve water quality and temperature in the SDEIS. Please permit the Stibnite Gold Project and continue to move this important project forward.

William Lopes