

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/27/2022 2:23:16 PM

First name: Dan

Last name: Reading

Organization: In the Bag Promotions

Title: Vice President

Comments: Dear Ms. Linda Jackson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Perpetua Resource Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. The Stibnite Gold Project is exactly the sort of private investment and business activity in Idaho that we should be supporting. The economic opportunity for our state is tremendous and something we cannot afford to pass on. Therefore, I would like to encourage the U.S. Forest Service to move forward with the 2021 Modified Mine Plan presented by the company and examined in the supplemental draft environmental impact statement, as doing so will mean Idaho gains a business partner who is invested in both Idaho's economic and environmental well being.

My business, In the Bag Promotions, is a promotional marketing agency that has been working with Perpetua Resources for the last six years. During that time, we have come to know this company and their employees. We know they are committed to supporting the local economy through local partnerships with vendors like us and hiring Idaho businesses first to be part of their growing supply chain. In fact, they have spent close to \$90 million in Idaho hiring local vendors and contractors. Moreover, working with Perpetua will create strong business relationships between our company and others in the region and will most certainly result in more business for us down the road.

Over the course of the project, the preferred alternative will provide hundreds of direct jobs for Idahoans. By the company's estimates, the Stibnite Gold Project's construction would employ 600-700 people with average annual salaries around \$70,000. During mining operations, an additional 500-600 local workers will be hired, with an annual payroll ranging from \$48 million-\$51 million. This is a win-win for Idaho.

We can employ skilled professionals in the area, create a robust supply chain for businesses like ours, and accumulate wages and tax revenue that will go directly back into the communities that need it most. For our company, this growth and expansion will help us grow as well; through the growth of Perpetua Resources and also the opportunity for us to work with the new companies and businesses created to support the economic growth.

As if the economic input by this company isn't enough - which will be nearly \$1.1 billion dollars - their comprehensive and thorough plan for the Stibnite Gold -Project will clean up legacies left behind by their industry. They are taking up the challenge of changing the narrative around mining for the better by fixing the mistakes of the past using private investment. Taxpayers won't be on the hook at all. Modern financial assurance laws ensure that before the first bar of gold is poured, tens of millions of dollars will be set aside for reclamation. And on top of that, Perpetua has committed to begin restoring Stibnite before they even start mining - as evidenced by their ASAOC cleanup activities and the construction of the award-winning fish tunnel in the first year of construction.

The Stibnite Gold Project represents a chance to improve the economic and environmental conditions not just of the Stibnite Mining District, but also Idaho more broadly. Please support Perpetua's proposal as outlined in the 2021 MMP.

NEPA has done its job. Through years of scientific review and public comment, I am sure that the modified mine plan put forth in the supplemental EIS is the best project possible. And I look forward to both the economic and environmental benefits this project will bring to our state.