Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/11/2023 2:41:53 AM
First name: Chris
Last name: Paul
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear Ms. Jackson,

On behalf of Hercules Silver Corp., I am writing to express our support for the Perpetua Resources Stibnite Gold Project in Idaho and urge the U.S. Forest Service to move this project forward by permitting the 2021 Modified Mine Plan Alternative in the Supplemental Draft EIS.

Hercules Silver Corp. chose to explore in Idaho because it is one of the top jurisdictions for critical minerals and domestically sourced resources in North America. As CEO of Hercules, I recognize the importance of responsible and modern mining practices. From my own experience in this industry, I see how Perpetua Resources has thoroughly vetted the plan for the Stibnite Project and I would like to offer my full support.

The permitting process is designed to move the best plans forward. After reviewing the SDEIS, it is clear to me the Burntlog Road option is the clear choice for Idaho. This will allow the abandoned mine site to be restored, America to secure a domestic source of the critical mineral antimony and fish to be reconnected to their native spawning grounds. The Stibnite Gold Project has been under federal review for the past six years and Perpetua Resources has been studying the site for an additional six years. Twelve years of scientific analysis and stakeholder input is ample time to evaluate a project. The process has been rigorous and done its job.

The positive economic benefits offered by the Stibnite Gold Project, as analyzed in the SDEIS, section 4-21, include $28.1 million in local income impact for residents and $110.9 million statewide, plus significant state and federal taxes. This would make the Stibnite Gold Project the largest and highest paying employer in the area. This economic injection into the local economy would help working families with making ends meet and contribute significant tax revenue to local communities and the state. Mining companies have long played an important role in Idaho's economy and Perpetua Resources will be no exception.

Perpetua Resources has also proven itself as a strong partner to the local community. The company has sponsored community events, invested in park improvements, help fund recreational opportunities for students and supported several search and rescue efforts near the site. Perpetua Resources has also maintained an open-door policy and shared its plans with stakeholders across the state. In fact, the company has given more than 1,000 presentations on its project since 2015. Perpetua Resources clearly understands being a modern mining company also means being a strong corporate citizen.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this feedback. I encourage the Forest Service to permit the preferred alternative outlined in the SDEIS, so the project can continue moving forward.

Sincerely,

Chris Paul, CEO Hercules Silver Corp.