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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am pleased to write in support of the reopening of the Black Pine Mine by Liberty Gold. I farm and live in the area and will be directly impacted by the project. There are several reasons that this project will be a benefit to our local community as well as the greater surrounding areas.

First, our local area has very limited opportunity for the next generation to live and work here. The economic opportunity that the mine will provide for many years for the rising generation will be significant. The prospect of 300+ well-paying jobs will be a massive boon for our communities, not to mention the secondary and trickle-down impact of that wealth moving through our local economies. I believe these economic benefits will be especially impactful in Onieda and Cassia Counties in Idaho and Box Elder County in Utah. Not to mention the tax benefits to local and state governments. Additionally, as there is a significant amount of silver that will be harvested with the gold on Black Pine, they will be directly impacting a national critical mineral concern.

Second, as I have been in the area since Liberty Gold first began exploring the potential of reopening the mine, they have been excellent neighbors. They have sought out opportunities to be helpful in the community and to provide support to local schools, and causes. They have gone out of their way to find ways to engage with neighbors so that we know the actual people from Liberty Gold that we will be working with in the future. Liberty Gold has also employed several local people which has been a help to many families. Additionally, through Liberty Gold's efforts the roads in the valley have been very well maintained.

Third, it is significant that the proposed mine area has been mined in the past. In fact, with newer and better mining and reclamation practices the prospect of reopening the mine will provide an opportunity to improve upon the previous reclamation efforts.

Fourth, there are several other reasons why a mine in this particular location is advantages: 1) There is no significant forests on the proposed mine site, mostly brush and grass land with some cedars. 2) No significant surface water, no rivers, streams, or lakes. 3) The mine plan does not include mining below the water table. 4) The chemical and geologic nature of the deposit will avoid having any of the negative acidic byproducts common in other mines. 5) No endangered species, and even the Sage Grouse concerns are limited as the habitat on the South End of Black Pine is not ideal for Sage Grouse to begin with.

Fifth, Liberty Gold has been very mindful of the ground water in the valley. They have dutifully monitored and forecasted their impact on the ground water. They have committed to a water use program that will use less water than is currently being drawn from the basin.

Sixth, and finally, having studied geology in college and being local I have had several opportunities to take home school groups and youth groups up to the old mine sites and teach them about mining and geology. It has been inspiring to see Liberty Gold's employees making the effort to have these groups from our schools and churches go up and learn about the rocks. This personal touch and connection represent the best use of this public land as we educate interested parties.

In closing, the positives of having Liberty Gold reopen the Black Pine Mine vastly outweigh any negatives. It is a good location for a mine, they have been good neighbors, and they have proven and outlined plans to responsibly mine on Black Pine while maintaining an ideal of stewardship so that the area and natural resources will still be valuable to future generations.

Thank You