



April 24, 2019

RE: Calico/Grassy Mtn. Mine, Malheur County

Snake River Economic Development Alliance (SREDA) is a non-profit, public-private regional partnership that was formed because of the economic adversities we face here in Malheur County and the Western Treasure Valley.

Throughout the years, we have had:

- High unemployment;
- High underemployment – many people work 2 jobs to make a living;
- People leaving their homes to find work or commuting long distances;
- Businesses closing and not reopening;
- Traditionally underrepresented and minority communities;
- Shrinking populations in our rural towns; and
- Malheur County has been ranked one of the highest Counties in the State of Oregon for poverty.

The need for more 'living wage' jobs and new investment into our communities is crucial. Our organization focuses on helping existing companies expand and grow as well as recruiting new companies into our area.

The Calico Grassy Mountain Mine project has the potential for developing a gold mine that will have a significant and positive economic impact for Malheur County, Eastern Oregon, and the State of Oregon.

The vast amount of acreage we have in Malheur County dwarfs the size of land that the mine will actually inhabit. This minute amount of space utilized will have virtually no negative impact on our soil, water, or air quality. The creation of new jobs will allow for families to move into our rural towns, enroll their children in the schools and become part of the community. This project will also provide an opportunity for locals, who are living away from the area for employment, to return home to high paying jobs.

The mine will stimulate additional outside investment of dollars that will circulate multiple times throughout our businesses. This will help our rural communities, like Nyssa, Vale, Burns and Ontario, to become more vibrant and economically healthy.

We strongly support this project and ask that you move efficiently forward with the local planning and zoning process.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Kit Kamo*

Kit Kamo

Executive Director