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## House of Representatives State of Idaho

August 14, 2020

U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest  
Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor  
500 North Mission Street  
McCall, ID 83638

Dear Supervisor Jackson,

As a Representative of Idaho's 8<sup>th</sup> District I have a vested interest in ensuring the future of Idaho is filled with opportunities for all Idahoans. That is why I am writing in support of the Midas Gold Stibnite project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under public evaluation. This project will benefit my constituents and countless others throughout Idaho. Please consider the following comments during your review.

As a member of the Idaho House Resources & Conservation Committee and a mother of two, it is important for me to help shape and improve the legacy of our great state for future generations to come – the Stibnite Gold Project helps get that done. After receiving a Master of Science degree in Resource Planning, I worked for the City of Springfield, Missouri as their Environmental Planner with a primary interest in water quality. Living by the Salmon River has allowed me to see, first-hand, the blocked fish passages formed by the pit lake in Yellow Pine. That is why I am excited that Midas Gold has proposed an effort to restore the habitat and create a fish passage back to the Salmon River. The Stibnite Gold Project is a privately funded environmental reclamation initiative that will get the job done while removing the burden from the taxpayer and bringing jobs back home to District 8.

Idaho is home to one of the world's largest reserves of rare earth metals. We should not be eclipsed by foreign producers when Idaho has the means to cultivate its own resources under the highest standards of environmental awareness. According to an independent analysis by Highland Economics, of the nearly 600 workers Midas plans to hire during operations, approximately 500 of those workers would reside in Idaho. If this project is allowed to move forward it would be a \$1 billion dollar investment in Idaho; generating state and local tax revenues that will go toward education, local law enforcement, and local public works projects.

Mining is not only a passion of mine but my livelihood. It is imperative that we do everything that we can to support an industry so important to Idaho. This is why I was happy to sponsor House Joint Memorial 14 during the 2020 Idaho Legislative Session which recognized the contributions the mining industry has had on the history of Idaho over the last 160 years. I have attached HJM 14 to this letter for your review.

I hope you will think on these points and adopt Alternative 2 considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Representative Dorothy Moon



## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS27704 / HJM014

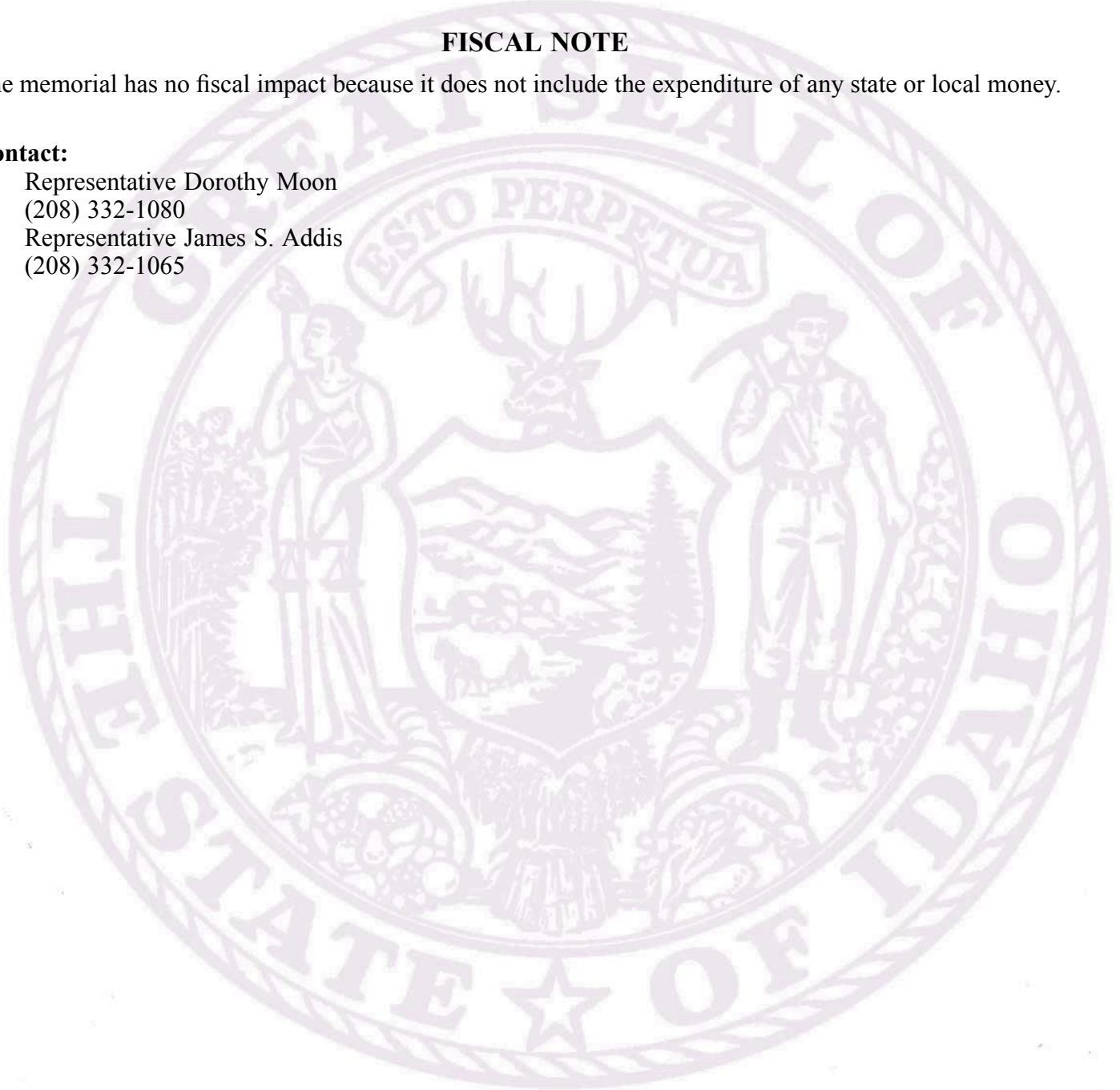
The purpose of this memorial is to recognize the contributions that the mining industry has had on the history of the territory and state of Idaho over the last 160 years and to support federal agencies in their efforts to modernize policies to encourage multiple uses on public lands.

## FISCAL NOTE

The memorial has no fiscal impact because it does not include the expenditure of any state or local money.

### Contact:

Representative Dorothy Moon  
(208) 332-1080  
Representative James S. Addis  
(208) 332-1065



**DISCLAIMER:** This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 14

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1  
2 TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CON-  
3 GRESS ASSEMBLED AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE  
4 STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

5 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of  
6 the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-fifth  
7 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

8 WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature recognizes the profound role mining has  
9 played in the settlement of Idaho, its contemporary role, and the role it  
10 will play in our future; and

11 WHEREAS, Idaho, the forty-third state in the Union, was named the "Gem  
12 State" because of the immense role played by mining in the settlement of  
13 Idaho; and

14 WHEREAS, the Great Seal of the State of Idaho contains the symbolic rep-  
15 resentation of the miner because of the historical importance of mining in  
16 Idaho; and

17 WHEREAS, Idaho has diverse geologic and mineral resources within its  
18 boundaries, including world-class deposits of silver, phosphate, and cobalt  
19 as well as numerous and robust deposits of gold, molybdenum, antimony, rare  
20 earth elements, thorium, lead, copper, zinc, and numerous other minerals and  
21 gems; and

22 WHEREAS, the Idaho state song "Here We Have Idaho" references Idaho's  
23 vast resources of silver and gold; and

24 WHEREAS, mining in Idaho has shaped the state's political boundaries,  
25 built cities, and supplied the nation with minerals necessary for today's  
26 modern lifestyle; and

27 WHEREAS, the discovery of gold along Canal Gulch near Pierce, Idaho, in  
28 1860 set off one of the largest migrations in American history; and

29 WHEREAS, the significant discovery of gold in the Boise Basin led to the  
30 founding of Boise City as a supply outpost for the Boise and Owyhee mining  
31 districts, thereby leading to the establishment of Boise as the capital of  
32 Idaho; and

33 WHEREAS, one hundred years after the discovery of silver in the world-  
34 renowned Coeur d'Alene mining district, the one billionth ounce of silver  
35 was produced there, as well as vast amounts of lead, zinc, and copper; and

36 WHEREAS, Idaho's world-class phosphate district plays a significant  
37 role in advancing the agricultural needs within our state and nation; and

38 WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature recognizes the prevalent role mining  
39 plays in our modern lives and will play in our future; and

40 WHEREAS, Idaho's mining industry has played a significant role in na-  
41 tional defense by providing the raw materials necessary to defend our nation  
42 in times of conflict; and

1           WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature recognizes the vital part the mining in-  
2 industry plays in providing economic stability to the region, especially rural  
3 economies, through high-paying jobs, taxes, direct and indirect economic  
4 impacts, donations, and community sponsorships; and

5           WHEREAS, mining and mine processing provide more than 10,000 direct and  
6 indirect jobs throughout Idaho, with a payroll of \$570 million, a total tax  
7 contribution of \$88 million, and an economic impact of almost \$1 billion to  
8 the gross state product; and

9           WHEREAS, the mining industry is dedicated to modern mining practices  
10 that promote the responsible extraction of minerals while being protective  
11 of the environment and emphasize land restoration as mine life progresses;  
12 and

13           WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature recognizes the importance of domesti-  
14 cally sourced minerals for national independence and defense, as it buffers  
15 reliance on imported minerals; and

16           WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature recognizes the necessity and use of  
17 mined minerals in virtually every aspect of our modern lives, including com-  
18 puter chips, telephones, automobiles, medical devices, electricity, roads  
19 and bridges, public infrastructure, recreation, freight, buildings and  
20 dwellings, health and beauty products, recreational equipment, and renew-  
21 able energy; and

22           WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature recognizes the invaluable future the  
23 mining industry plays not only in Idaho but also the entire United States of  
24 America; and

25           WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature recognizes the work that the Bureau of  
26 Land Management, the United States Forest Service, and other federal agen-  
27 cies are doing to simplify the permitting process for infrastructure and  
28 mining projects.

29           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-  
30 sion of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and  
31 the Senate concurring therein, that the State of Idaho supports the actions  
32 of the Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies, in partnership  
33 with state agencies, to move forward and recognize the importance of mining  
34 in the history, development, and future of the Gem State.

35           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-  
36 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this  
37 Memorial to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Agricul-  
38 ture, the Secretary of the Interior, the Administrator of the Environmental  
39 Protection Agency, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House  
40 of Representatives of Congress, and to the congressional delegation repre-  
41 senting the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.