

Laurie Lickley

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House of Representatives State of Idaho

24 August 2020

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

Dear Ms. Jackson,

My family homesteaded in the Warm Lake area in the late 1800's, and I firmly value Idaho's mining industry and its contribution to our nation's national security. I have fond memories of my time at Stibnite and am a strong advocate for the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho and currently under consideration with the U.S Forest Service. As a rancher and public servant, I understand how critical it is for us to protect our land and believe this project has the best interests of Idaho, our communities, and our environment in mind. We'd all be better off with this proposal approved without delay.

Mining is a historic industry in Idaho but most mining occurred before regulatory requirements were in place and as a result left environmental legacies that we have been unable to address. Damage includes blocked fish passage to the upper reaches of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River, accelerated erosion, and an elevation of metals in our waterways. Midas Gold Idaho is the only company with a plan and commitment to clean up and repair the damage left behind at the site. The Plan of Restoration and Operations (PRO) submitted to the U.S. Forest Service includes a robust reclamation plan that will ensure that the work is done.

Idahoans depend on our lands and the multiple use thereof, and it is critical that we repair the Stibnite Region for future generations. I trust Midas Gold Idaho to use only the best equipment and safest mining practices to ensure environmental stewardship. The amount of restoration needed would not be possible without private investment, as it would be too costly to the taxpayer to be undertaken by government authorities – Midas has proposed the funding needed to complete the project.

The Stibnite Gold Project will restore our land and help our communities. That is why I urge U.S. Forest Service to adopt Alternative 2 as you preferred alternative, moving this process forward in a responsible and timely fashion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Lickley".

Laurie Lickley
Idaho State Representative
District 25, Seat A