



House of Representatives State of Idaho

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

Dear Ms. Jackson,

As an Idaho state representative, I write to express my support for Midas Gold Idaho's proposed Stibnite Gold Project following the U.S. Forest Service's release of its draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As the member representing Donnelly, a community close to the site of the proposed project, I encourage you to adopt Alternative 2.

The Stibnite Gold Project will be a \$1 billion dollar investment in Idaho and will bring hundreds of well-paying jobs to the state's rural communities. The investment will provide a huge opportunity for many families in my district and across the state. Presently, the job opportunities in Donnelly center on the leisure and hospitality industries. On average, the jobs the Stibnite Gold Project will bring in will be four times the average wages of these leisure and hospitality positions – that's more than \$80,000. The advantage of this project is the employees and incomes it will generate get to stay in Idaho.

Additionally, as a board member on the Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands, I am pleased with the approach the company has laid out to address the environmental degradation at Stibnite. Midas Gold Idaho is committed to repairing the nearly 100 years' worth of erosion, sedimentation, and devastation to fish habitats and spawning grounds and has outlined a robust and highly detailed reclamation plan. Restoring the environment in this region is a costly endeavor, one the government is unlikely to ever do alone. The initiative shown by Midas Gold Idaho to address this issue is another compelling reason to approve the project.

In February 2018, the Idaho House of Representatives and Senate passed, with overwhelming support, a joint memorial asserting that Idaho supports actions by the U.S. Forest Service in partnership with other state agencies to move forward to approve the Stibnite Gold Project in a timely and cost-effective manner. As lead sponsor of this joint memorial, I feel that this project is an exceptional opportunity to clean up years of environmental degradation and to provide significant economic contributions to our state. I have attached HJM 10 to this letter for your review.

After careful consideration of the draft EIS, I would like to urge the U.S. Forest Service to adopt the Alternative 2 outlined by Midas Gold Idaho and I appreciate the U.S. Forest Service's commitment to Idaho demonstrated through its rigorous examination of the project.

Sincerely,

Rep. Terry Gestrin
R-Donnelly
Idaho House of Representatives

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS25999

This Joint Memorial encourages the Trump Administration, including the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Secretary of the United States Department of Interior, and the administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency and Idaho's Congressional Delegation, to direct resources and personnel necessary to move forward with permitting the Stibnite Gold Project in a timely and cost-effective manner.

FISCAL NOTE

This Memorial has no impact on the General Fund of the State because it does not involve the spending of any money at any local or State level.

Contact:

Representative Terry Gestrin
(208) 332-1000
Representative Dorothy Moon
(208) 322-1000
Senator Steven Thayn
(208) 332-1000

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).

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

Sixty-fourth Legislature

Second Regular Session - 2018

Legislative Co-sponsors

RS25999

Senator Brent Hill
Senator Jeff Agenbroad
Senator Kelly Anthon
Senator Steve Bair
Senator Clifford Bayer
Senator Bert Brackett
Senator Cherie Buckner-Webb
Senator Carl Crabtree
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Representative Mike Moyle
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Representative Heather Scott

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Representative Paul Shepherd
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Representative John Vander Woude
Representative Sally Toone
Representative Julie VanOrden
Representative Jarom Wagoner
Representative Fred Wood
Representative Rick Youngblood
Representative Christy Zito
Representative Bryan Zollinger

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 10

BY RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, THE SEC-
3 RETARY OF THE INTERIOR, THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTEC-
4 TION AGENCY AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE
5 OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

6 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Sen-
7 ate of the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the
8 Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

9 WHEREAS, mining played an integral role in the settlement of the West
10 and Idaho in particular, hence its motto "The Gem State"; and

11 WHEREAS, mining activity for minerals including tungsten, antimony,
12 gold and silver has taken place in the Stibnite Mining District in Valley
13 County, Idaho, since 1899; and

14 WHEREAS, the supply of tungsten and antimony from the Stibnite Mining
15 District was critical to the United States war efforts during World War II
16 and the Korean War; and

17 WHEREAS, after decades of mining activity that largely pre-dated state
18 and federal regulatory guidelines, standards and oversight left the Stib-
19 nite area in need of repair and a legacy of millions of tons of unlined tail-
20 ings, blocked fish passage and conditions degrading water quality; and

21 WHEREAS, Midas Gold Idaho, Inc., has proposed to redevelop a portion
22 of the historic Stibnite Mining District as outlined in the Stibnite Gold
23 Project Plan of Restoration and Operations, delivered to the United States
24 Forest Service in September 2016 for review under the National Environmental
25 Policy Act (NEPA); and

26 WHEREAS, the Stibnite Gold Project is designed to clean up legacy envi-
27 ronmental impacts before and during mining; and

28 WHEREAS, the United States dependency on foreign minerals has doubled
29 in the last twenty years, and China controls 83% of the world's antimony re-
30 sources. The Stibnite Gold Project would be the only domestic source of pri-
31 mary antimony, a critical component for flame retardants essential to the
32 defense and energy sectors and for metal strengthening; and

33 WHEREAS, bureaucratic delays and redundant policies have expanded the
34 time frame for environmental permitting to anywhere from seven to ten years,
35 or longer, which is considerably longer than other countries with comparable
36 environmental standards; and

37 WHEREAS, modern regulations require that companies set aside adequate
38 financial assurances to cover the cost of environmental cleanup, ensuring
39 that reclamation is completed; and

40 WHEREAS, once approved, the Stibnite Gold Project will provide a \$1 bil-
41 lion investment in Idaho, including upgrades to public infrastructure such
42 as roads and power lines in rural Idaho. The project will provide approx-
43 imately 1,000 well-paying direct and indirect jobs to Idahoans, and expand

1 the economy with more than \$40 million in direct annual payroll during oper-
2 ations and hundreds of millions in federal, state and local taxes over the
3 life of the project. This will be an economic boon to the people and busi-
4 nesses of the great State of Idaho, where rural communities have been hard-
5 hit over recent decades; and

6 WHEREAS, over the last seven years, Midas Gold Idaho's involvement in
7 the community, commitment to building a mine that will help the community and
8 the environment, and dedication to being a partner with local communities
9 proves they are the right team to undertake this project.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular
11 Session of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives
12 and the Senate concurring therein, that the State of Idaho supports actions
13 by the U.S. Forest Service and other federal agencies, in partnership with
14 agencies of the great State of Idaho and Valley County, to move forward to
15 approve the Stibnite Gold Project in a timely and cost-effective manner to
16 permit the redevelopment and restoration of the site.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we believe Midas Gold Idaho's commitment to
18 mining in a way that restores and protects the environment will serve as a
19 global template for responsible, sustainable and successful mining prac-
20 tices.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government agencies commit ad-
22 equate, experienced and knowledgeable personnel and sufficient financial
23 resources to complete the review under NEPA and other laws and regulations
24 as expeditiously as possible, while ensuring compliance with those laws and
25 regulations.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Represen-
27 tatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of
28 this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Agri-
29 culture, the Secretary of the Interior, the Administrator of the Environmen-
30 tal Protection Agency, and to the congressional delegation representing the
31 State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.