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(Session only)



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LEE HEIDER Idaho State Senate

August, 24, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Jackson,

The Stibnite Gold Project under consideration is a billion dollar investment in Idaho that will restore the Stibnite region to its former glory while providing quality job opportunities for our state. As the Chair of the Senate Resources & Environment Committee, I would like to voice my support for Midas Gold Idaho's plans and ask the U.S. Forest Service to please adopt Alternative 2 considered in your recently released draft environmental impact statement.

In 2017, before submitting a project proposal, Midas Gold hired Highland Economics to perform an independent economic impact study of the project. The findings of which are quite impressive. During project construction, Midas anticipates to employ as many as 1,000 employees and up to 200 individuals during the environmental reclamation process. A second positive is the 'trickle-down' effect from so many jobs. Consumer spending should increase as should tax revenue. Highland Economics expects that over the project's 20-year life span it will generate \$150 million in state and local tax revenues that can help bolster our schools, hospitals, and public parks.

I'm encouraged to see the positive impact Midas Gold's proposed reclamation process will have on that region's environment. Large-scale environmental improvements can be extremely expensive and would not be feasible without the private investment offered from Midas Gold. As outlined in the Plan of Restorations and Operations submitted to the U.S. Forest Service, it is clear Midas Gold is committed to ensuring that the Stibnite region is left in a better condition than it was found.

As the approval process moves along I kindly ask that you consider my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee Heider".

Senator Lee Heider
Idaho State Senator, Legislative District 24