

SCOTT A. SYME

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House of Representatives State of Idaho

August 25, 2020

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

As a Representative of Idaho's 11th district, I am constantly seeking out new opportunities to help grow our state's economy, create new jobs, and support our local communities. Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project is that kind of promising opportunity. The U.S. Forest Service has released its draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold project and after review, I am writing to voice my support for the necessary permitting of the project.

Allowing Midas Gold to move forward with the Stibnite Gold project will mean a \$1 billion investment in Idaho. An independent consulting firm, Highland Economics, conducted an analysis of Stibnite Gold's potential economic impact. They found that the project would, over its lifespan, generate over \$400 million in income tax revenue. Additionally, it would produce \$300,000 annually from property taxes that will go towards local government initiatives including, education funding, and supporting emergency services. Beyond the newly generated tax revenues, this project will bring good paying jobs back to Idaho. Midas Gold is committed to hiring from within the state whenever feasible. They plan to employ roughly 600 Idahoans during operations; nearly 300 of those new hires would be from the communities surrounding Stibnite. Midas Gold Idaho will also provide education and job training opportunities to these employees over the course of the project.

Throughout all of this Midas has demonstrated its commitment to Idahoans by establishing the Community Agreement Program. This program will give community members a platform to raise their concerns and ask questions through each phase of the project's development.

Thank you for considering my comments in support. I would like to urge the U.S. Forest Service to adopt Alternative 2 proposed by Midas Gold Idaho for the Stibnite Gold Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Syme".

Scott Syme
Idaho State Representative
Legislative District 11