



## 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 a representative of Idaho's 7<sup>th</sup> District I am pleased to write to the U.S. Forest Service in support of Midas Gold Idaho's proposed Stibnite Gold Project. After review of the agency's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project, it remains clear to me that this opportunity will stimulate our economy and help restore a critical part of our natural habitat: the Salmon River.

This project will be a \$1 billion investment into the state of Idaho, which will create new jobs for Idahoans and generate millions of dollars in tax revenues. Midas plans to hire up to 1,000 new workers during operations, and has pledged that a majority of the workforce will be pulled from Idaho. In 2014, Valley County had the 9<sup>th</sup> highest unemployment rate in the state – allowing this project to proceed will bring jobs back to that region and will help reinvigorate communities across Idaho.

Midas Gold Idaho is also committed to help clean up damage left after years of mining that occurred before state and federal regulations – and before Midas was involved. Midas Gold's plans includes a robust reclamation effort that will remove potentially hazardous minerals from our waterways and will rehabilitate our local fish habitat by clearing the barriers that currently block native salmon populations from reaching the Salmon River.

After careful consideration, I urge you to adopt Midas Gold's Alternative 2 laid out in their proposal and allow this project to proceed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Shepherd".

Paul Shepherd  
Idaho House