



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,

I am writing to express my support for the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho. I am encouraged by Midas Gold's proposal, especially the economic windfall and environmental mitigation efforts. If realized, Idahoans, our communities, and the environment will certainly stand to benefit.

My goal as Idaho State Representative is to serve my constituents and my experience as Chair of the House Commerce & Human Resources Committee has helped me appreciate the diverse needs of families in the Gem State. Idaho continues to rank among the lowest in the country for per capita income and wages. But the Stibnite Gold Project would offer a unique opportunity to fix that statistic.

In fact, an independent economics firm estimated that the \$1 billion investment from Midas Gold will have significant impacts on the community from job creation alone. They estimate that direct and indirect impacts of the Stibnite Gold Project would generate more than \$29 million in annual local incomes during the years of operations. Also, Midas Gold has committed to hiring local and supporting training opportunities for Idahoans by working directly with local schools and colleges as well as the Idaho Department of Labor. In short, these jobs will be filled by our constituents and directly help the families in Idaho that need it most. That same economic analysis also found that our schools, local police and local municipalities could see up to \$300,000 annually from property taxes.

Midas Gold is clearly committed to investing in our people and our communities. The positive impact that this proposed project can have on our constituency necessitates the project's swift approval. I urge the U.S. Forest Service to move forward with Alternative 2 laid out by Midas Gold and considered in the draft environmental impact statement. This project will be a win-win for Idaho.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Holtzclaw".

James Holtzclaw
Idaho State Representative
Legislative District 20