



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

Dear Ms. Jackson,

I am writing you to express my support for the Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. After examination of the recently released draft of the Environmental Impact Statement for the project I can see that both the company and regulators have worked hard to consider what would be best for Idaho. I appreciate the work that has been done to protect Idaho's environment and precious natural resources. That is why I support this 21st Century mining proposal.

A hundred years of mining in the Stibnite area has greatly harmed the environment. The abandoned pits, accelerated erosion, and elevated metals in surface and ground waters have harmed Idaho and marred its natural beauty. As laid out in their Plan of Restoration and Operations (PRO), Midas Gold Idaho is committed to cleaning up and restoring the environment surrounding the mine site. Restoring our land and our waters is essential to the future of Idaho's great outdoors and critical to the long-term health and well-being of the community.

It's also important to note the costs associated with a cleanup of this size. We cannot – nor should we – count on the taxpayer resources to address these concerns. That is why this influx of private investment is essential, and Midas Gold Idaho's potential investment of more than \$1 billion to this project is just what is needed.

I urge the U.S. Forest Service to adopt Alternative 2 laid out by Midas Gold in their proposal and move this project forward as quickly as possible. I am confident that it is the right move for Idaho.

As a Representative and an Idahoan, I hope that you will consider my thoughts during the review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Vander Woude".

John Vander Woude
Idaho State Representative
District 22, Seat A