



Idaho State Senate 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 write to you today both as a long-time resident of Idaho and as an elected member of the state Senate. It is in both of these capacities that I want to express my support for Midas Gold Idaho's proposed Stibnite Gold project. This project – with its potential for economic opportunity for Idaho and the only plan to finally clean up and restore the historic Stibnite mining district – is exactly the kind of opportunity we need here in the Gem State.

The Stibnite Mining District, has a long history but unfortunately has been left in a lackluster condition following decades of activity that occurred without the rigorous regulations in place today. Midas Gold's commitment to redevelop this site is a chance for the area to be restored without any taxpayer resources expended. Specifically, Midas Gold is prepared to make a \$1 billion investment in Idaho, with part of that money dedicated to completing their Plan of Restoration and Operations (PRO), which includes a robust reclamation plan to ensure the site is returned to a healthy and thriving ecosystem.

Other parts of the \$1 billion investment will be used to generate capital and jobs in our state. Highland Economics, an independent firm which conducted an economic analysis of the project, estimates the generation of more than \$28 million annually in local income during construction. This is an incredible investment for a state that consistently ranks as one with the lowest per capita income. Annual estimated incomes will increase during the operations phase – the longest period of the project – to more than \$29 million. Income generation of this magnitude also means significant tax revenues for municipalities.

Midas Gold has offered a project that the state needs. They've already committed and spent more than \$150 million dollars in our communities, with millions more on the way. Private investment and environmental reclamation will do significant things for us all. I encourage you to adopt Alternative 2 examined in the draft Environmental Impact Statement and move this project forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patti Anne Lodge".

Patti Anne Lodge
Idaho State Senator
District 11