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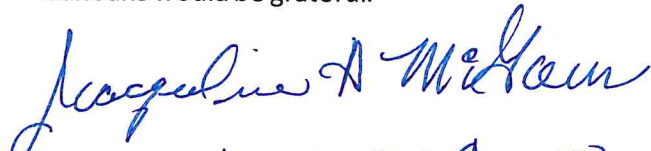
I am writing to voice my support for the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho.

The Stibnite Gold Project would solve two problems at once. It would create badly needed jobs and inject millions of dollars into Idaho's economy, and it would result in the restoration of polluted land that has been neglected for decades. It is difficult to envision a more perfect proposal, especially at a time when job security is at the forefront of everyone's mind.

Some people are concerned that the return of mining will cause further damage to our nature. However, modern mining is heavily regulated, and the environmental risks posed by the Stibnite Gold Project are a drop in the bucket compared to the ongoing harm caused by tailings and waste material left behind from older operations. It would be hypocritical to reject the project for environmental reasons when the alternative is far worse. Given the high cost of restoration, it is unlikely that cleaning up Stibnite will be a government priority any time soon. Idaho would be wise to let a private company pick up the tab and create hundreds of jobs at the same time.

Most mining projects require a compromise between environmental preservation and wealth creation. The Stibnite Gold Project does not. I am strongly in support of Midas Gold's plan, and I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to approve alternative 2 outlined in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I believe this alternative provides the most environmental wins, including improving water quality by removing legacy tailings and waste.

Idahoans would be grateful.


Jacqueline A. McGovern