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House of Representatives State of Idaho

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

September 17, 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 submitting this letter in support of Midas Gold Idaho's plan to develop the Stibnite Gold Project and Alternative 2 examined in the recently released draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Idaho's economy, environment, and future will benefit greatly from the Stibnite Gold Project.

The company's planned investment of roughly \$1 billion will be felt statewide. It is estimated that the company will contribute approximately \$86 million in state and local taxes and invest hundreds of thousands of dollars to upgrade critical infrastructure like roads and power lines. Additionally, the project will provide approximately 1,000 jobs at the site throughout the length of the project, and Midas Gold estimates salaries will be much higher than the local average in Valley County. This can make a big difference in the lives of many families in this area.

We all know previous mining activity in the Stibnite area occurred before there were requirements for restoration and reclamation of the land. This contributed to some of the serious environmental problems we see in the area today. Fixing this damage is a costly endeavor which requires significant private investment. The details in the PRO indicate that Midas Gold is committed to cleaning up the site and leaving the land in a better state than it was originally found. Their project will help fix the issues of erosion and deforestation while restoring the fish habitat in our rivers.

Additionally, Midas Gold Idaho is committed to working with our communities. They have created a community agreement program that will give local communities an equal voice and the ability to community directly with the company during the life of the mine.

I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to adopt Alternative 2 that Midas Gold presented in their project proposal. Idahoans should not be denied the positive environmental and economic impacts this Midas Gold Idaho project will bring to our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Bedke".

Speaker Scott Bedke
Idaho House of Representatives