



House of Representatives State of Idaho

**House Judiciary, Rules, & Administration Committee
Rep. Greg Chaney, Chairman**

October 6, 2020

U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest
Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor
500 North Mission Street
McCall, ID 83638

Dear Ms. Jackson,

As an Idaho Representative it is my honor to serve my constituents and dedicate my efforts to ensuring a better future for all Idahoans. That is why I am writing you in full support of Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project currently under review by the U.S. Forest Service. I believe this project will benefit Idaho both economically and environmentally and my hope is you will consider the following comments during your review.

If permitted the Stibnite Gold Project will be a \$1 billion dollar investment in Idaho, benefitting the entire state. Midas is committed to hiring local employees and providing them with valuable training that will strengthen our workforce. Currently, Idaho ranks among the lowest in the country for per capita income and wages, however, these jobs will pay on average much more than many of the predominate jobs in Valley County.

Additionally, the communities will see more than \$150 million in local and state tax revenues as a result of the project's completion. These resources will help solidify our schools, bolster local law enforcement, and provide local governments with options to serve the community. But the economic impact of the project is just one reason why the Stibnite Gold Project should be permitted to move forward.

Midas Gold Idaho has demonstrated its commitment to improving the Stibnite mining region, restoring the land to the way nature intended it to be. Considering the environmental degradation caused by previous mining activity, private investment is likely the only way we'll restore the beautiful lands and waterways in that region of the state. Barriers blocking water passages for salmon and steelhead fish will be removed and plans focusing on spawning habitat access will create long-term improvements to our environment.

I commend you on your extensive evaluation of the project's proposal in the released draft environmental impact statement. After careful consideration, I urge the U.S. Forest Service to adopt Alternative 2 provided by Midas Gold in their proposal and allow the Stibnite Gold Project to move forward in a timely fashion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Chaney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Chaney
Idaho State Representative
Chair - House Judiciary, Rules & Administration Committee