

U.S.F.S. Officials,

I became familiar with the Stibnite area in 1988 as Manager of Mines with Hecla Mining Company. I was intimately involved with the small mining and leaching operation we built in the district. Our mining was mostly a clean up of old mine waste piles, with no mining of virgin ground. I visited the Stibnite district many times.

I have seen forest fires in the area, very difficult to control fires due to lack of access. I saw the scars of the mining done in the war years, a time of much less concern for the land than now. Many of those scars we cleaned up in the 1980's. Many obviously remain. The practices of some of the district operators even in the district in the 1980's would not be permitted today. The mining industry has made so many positive changes in practices that it is virtually a different industry today than in the 1980's much less in the years of WW2 and the Korean War.

I have visited the district several times since then and a few times since Midas began their effort. I frequently talk to people in the mining industry. There is an entirely different mindset in the industry's young people today than even in the more enlightened years of the 1980's. I have no doubt that the Stibnite district will be better off after Midas has extracted the antimony and gold as planned. I have no doubt their intentions are and practices will be positive for the Stibnite district and ESFS drainage.

I also have no doubt that Idaho and the United States will be better off from the production of minerals from Stibnite. Idaho will benefit greatly, in this Covid damaged economy, from the money Midas will spend and taxes it will generate from gold and antimony production from Stibnite.

I wholeheartedly support Midas in this effort to develop this mine, in an area of Idaho that needs restoration.

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