

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 proud of the recreational opportunities and outdoor beauty Idaho has to offer. I live in Valley County, a rural community that is home to historic mining operations dating back to the 1800s. The consequences of these earlier mining efforts were never addressed and will either go unaddressed or local taxpayers will be responsible for funding the cleanup. Fortunately, Midas Gold's Alternative 2 plan proposes clean up methods for the historic mining district. I am writing to urge you to vote yes on Alternative 2, a proposal that will stimulate our local economy and conserve our environment.

Communities across the nation are hurting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Many workers experienced job loss or a reduction in hours, and our economies are suffering. The Midas Stibnite Gold Project promises to boost the local economy here in Idaho. Alternative 2 includes opportunities for over 500 local, well-paying jobs. Midas Gold has committed to hiring locally and purchasing supplies locally whenever possible, creating indirect job opportunities as well. The project also boasts millions of dollars injected into the local economy and increases in tax revenues.

Beyond supporting our local economy, Alternative 2 also supports the local environment. Those early mining projects continued throughout the last 100 years, resulting in sediment build up and soil contamination in nearby areas. The deforestation in the Stibnite district continues to cause more erosion and sedimentation. Alternative 2 explains Midas Gold's plan to repair the sediment build up and reprocess old tailings to prevent against future water contamination.

Midas Gold has already invested millions to assess the environmental and economic factors of the proposed project. Alternative 2 reflects the fruits of this labor and offers the safest option to proceed with mining operations in a way that improves upon safety and protects the environment. I am confident that Midas has gone above and beyond in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to ensure that this mining project doesn't leave behind the same consequences as earlier operations.

Midas has also been very proactive in our communities, seeking input from local residents and business owners, and consulting with regulators to obtain the proper licenses and permits. I feel lucky to have had a voice in this process and strongly believe that Alternative 2 is the best way to accomplish a safe and responsible mining project.

Sincerely,



BILL GJURKE