

Gene Tyler

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

October 11, 2020

Dear Ms. Jackson:

My name is Gene Tyler, a long-time resident of Donnelly. I am writing to support the Stibnite Gold Project and Midas Gold's efforts to ethically and safely mine for gold and antimony. I am a strong conservationist but understand that in a world short of critical materials and solid mining laws we must find ways to coexist and each achieve goals when possible. This is an instance where I believe we can both coexist and achieve results that would benefit each position.

I recreate in and around the areas that may be impacted by the Stibnite Gold Project. It is important to me that the land in our area remain clean and accessible to all. I know that Midas Gold is already trying to clean up the old mining area in and around Stibnite. No one, not the Federal government or the ecological groups that formed to stop Midas Gold from mining, is doing anything to clean up the mess at Stibnite – no one except Midas Gold. Midas Gold already has a proven track record yet there are efforts to stymie them at every turn – they are cleaning the area now!

I strongly support Alternative 2. I believe it is the lowest overall risk, impacts the environment the least, and identifies the best transportation alternative that has no major fish bearing waterways impact. I strongly believe that Alternative 5 is not a real option since its foundation is to do nothing – we cannot do nothing we must clean up the ugly ecological and environmental conditions at Stibnite.

I support Midas Gold's efforts to mine at Stibnite for three reasons: ecological, conservational and environmental; economic; and Nation Security reasons detailed below:

Ecological, Conservational and Environmental Issues: The current conditions at Stibnite are shameful. Neither the Federal government or the anti-Midas environmental groups are doing anything to restore the site. In addition to cleaning the Stibnite area now, Midas Gold's plan to further clean the area as it mines will reduce poisons in the water that exists now. Midas' actions to clean up the area and to further process any tailings they produce will reduce arsenic levels, a known toxin that exist now. This will make the water cleaner for the South Fork Salmon. The fish tunnels built by Midas will allow the South Fork Salmon clean and protected

access to their natural spawning areas. This will greatly improve and restore the salmon population. Finally, the new mining laws on oversight and current bonding laws will require periodic review of project and the bonding to determine if a larger bond is required. This will ensure Stibnite is cleaned up and restored.

Economic Impact: Today the average income for workers in this area is just under \$40,000. Midas will pay their employees a wage and benefit package of approximately \$80,000 per year. Benefits are rare for the majority of Valley County workers. Midas projects to bring 1,000 well-paying jobs over the life of the project. It is estimated an additional 1,000 jobs will be created to support Midas, the workforce, and others in the area. In addition to jobs, it is estimated Midas will pay \$329 million in Federal taxes, \$86 million in State taxes and licensing, as well as increased payments to the local tax base.

National Security Considerations: In addition to gold and some silver a major mining mineral will be antimony. Antimony has been declared a strategic material needed by the United States and national security industries. At this time, **ZERO** antimony is mined in the US. It is need by the aerospace, information technologies (IT), medical, and firefighting industries. Today 96% of all antimony is mined in five countries: China (76.9%), Russia (6.9%), Tajikistan (6.2%), Bolivia (3.1%), and Australia (2.7%). We cannot rely on China and Russia for our supply of this critical mineral. We must create and protect our supply chain.

Midas Gold has been a reliable, ethical and fair partner with our communities. They are already cleaning the Stibnite mining area.

I wholeheartedly support the Stibnite Midas Gold Project and ask you approve their permit.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gene Tyler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gene" and last name "Tyler" clearly distinguishable.

Gene Tyler, Donnelly, Idaho