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October 22, 2020

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

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

RE: Stibnite Gold Project

This letter is in support of Midas Gold and the development of the Stibnite Gold Project.

My wife and myself were born and raised in Idaho, it is where we raised our own children and now where our grandchildren will be raised. It is very important to us that our state manages our natural resources and lands both environmentally and economically responsible. I am a small business owner where my livelihood and our household are supported from my work in the states timber industry and has been since 1987.

As an Idahoan not only do I have an appreciation for the management of our states natural resources, but I am an avid recreationalist who has a lifetime of experiences hunting, fishing, camping and boating in our great state. For this reason, I am exceptionally grateful for the time and effort that Midas Gold has spent invested in the local communities to hear how they can adapt their plan to accommodate recreationalists like myself. I also appreciate the USFS for taking this into consideration as demonstrated in the Draft EIS. Midas Gold seems to be the only entity who has a true plan and interest in returning fish to their native spawning grounds in the headwaters of the EFSF of the Salmon River. For me, this gives me hope for a brighter future of fish and fishing opportunities in our state for generations to come from an avid lifelong angler.

One of the key reasons that I support the development and operations of the Stibnite Gold Project is for the significant economic impact on surrounding communities in central Idaho. This project could support thousands of well-paying jobs both directly and indirectly throughout the construction phase and during operations of the mine, helping spur some much-needed economic growth and new development throughout surrounding communities. It will also provide an opportunity for Idahoans to stay and work in Idaho rather than having to go elsewhere for employment. I know many that are currently working out of state in the oil fields in the Midwest. At a cost of more than \$1 billion to build the SGP and over \$200 million

annually to maintain, this project would inject hundreds of millions of dollars into our state's economy, creating jobs and significant tax revenue at the local and state levels. To put it simply this is a win for Idahoans and all of Idaho to have such an economic opportunity from a private company that is also paying for the environmental clean up of the site while they mine. Having been to Stibnite myself on one of the most informative transparent tours with Midas Gold it is obvious that past mining has left the area in need of repair and I see no better way than by a mining company like Midas Gold to fix it.

Additionally, from what I have read and through interactions with Midas Gold and their staff- it is obvious to me that the company has made painstaking efforts to incorporate the highest safety standards and best practices into every aspect of their plan. As with any mining project, there will be hazardous materials involved in the mining and milling both naturally and in addition to what is in the rocks. However, it is apparent that Midas has taken all the necessary steps to ensure the safe transport and handling of these materials. They have also updated their hazardous materials transport plans; they have and will be maintaining an on-site hazardous materials response team and equipment; and they have also continued to work with local emergency response teams for training purposes.

Local workers, businesses, Idaho communities, and our entire country will all benefit from the Stibnite Gold Project moving forward. I encourage you to approve Alternative 2 as offered by Midas in their modified Plan of Restoration and Operations and help ensure this project moves forward as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pat Griswold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pat" being the most prominent.

Pat Griswold