

October 28, 2020

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

Re: Letter of Support for Midas Gold's Stibnite Gold Project

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Midas Gold's Stibnite Gold Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

I am the Vice President of Development for Midas Gold Idaho, Inc. I manage the internal and external teams of professionals that design Midas Gold's Stibnite Gold Project. I have been with Midas Gold since January 2012 and live with my family in Eagle, Idaho. This letter was not developed on behalf of Midas Gold; rather, it is a personal letter from me as a citizen and resident of the United States.

I have worked in the mining industry for nearly thirty years and during my career I have been involved in over 100 mining projects, operations, and closures – domestically and internationally. Before joining the Midas Gold team, I held a similar role for Kinross Gold Corp. on a mining project in Ecuador. Prior to that I held a corporate position at Barrick Gold Corp. as the Manager of Geotechnical Engineering based in Salt Lake City, Utah. In that position, I served in a geotechnical oversight role for all new mine development projects, operating mines and mine closures. I also managed Barrick's corporate geotechnical review board that conducted audits of high-risk geotechnical structures with particular focus on tailings storage facilities. Barrick is a company that grew through acquisition; consequently, they inherited many legacy mining properties; for example, Barrick inherited the Homestake Mine in South Dakota – a mine that operated for 125 years. Accordingly, over a seven-year period with Barrick, I truly saw the good, the bad, and the ugly of our industry. I believe this experience gave me a unique perspective, and applicable skills, on how to guide development of the Stibnite Gold Project.

In my experience, most mines follow a similar evolution. We start off by exploring for minerals in a new area, typically for a period of several years. If we are fortunate enough to achieve exploration success, we progress through a multi-year metallurgical study and design process, and if we can demonstrate that the mineral resource is of sufficient grade, size and financial returns, we launch into what is typically an arduous regulatory permitting process. Following permitting, if we are successful in acquiring the necessary permits, we then construct, operate,

then endeavor to create closure conditions at the site that approach the environmental baseline conditions we measured at the start of the permitting process. Rarely, in my experience, can we be fully successful in achieving that condition; however, I believe the Stibnite Gold Project is that rare project that we can do just that.

When a project comes along that can: improve local infrastructure such as roads, power, and communications infrastructure; provide skilled, high-paying, long-lasting jobs that increase opportunities for local residents during and following development and operation of the Project; bring economic diversify and opportunities to local communities; produce a nationally significant amount of strategic minerals that are not currently produced in the United States; and improve water quality and fish habitat before, during and following mine operations, it should be embraced.

As a mining professional, at times, it can be difficult to engage with the public about our industry as few want a mine near where they live, work or play, yet no one goes a single day without being immersed in a world that would not exist without mines – many, many mines. If as a society, we can't move forward a project like the Stibnite Gold Project it is difficult to see where we go from here. For many, the answer seems to be to ignore our society's need for minerals and metals and continue to rely on developing nations (at typically much greater environmental consequences) to produce these materials. In my opinion, this is an irresponsible and potentially dangerous strategy for America; it certainly does not positively impact the health of our planet as is the argument often espoused for discouraging the development of many mining projects.

The Stibnite Gold Project is a rare opportunity. To realize that opportunity, the regulatory community should say yes to Alternative 2 in the DEIS. Further, the Midas Gold technical team looks forward to working with regulators and other Project stakeholders to review the DEIS comments then further improve the environmental outcomes, and reduce environmental risks related to Alternative 2.

Thank you,

John Meyer