

October 28th, 2020

Dear Linda Jackson,

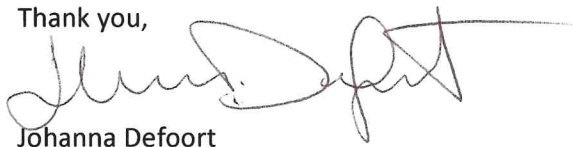
I am a lifelong resident and a 6th generation native of Valley County. I have worked for Midas Gold for the past 6 years as an accountant, but I am writing to you today as a private citizen. Based on my ties to Valley County and my knowledge of Midas Gold, I urge you to adopt the plan outlined in Alternative 2 of the DEIS as the preferred alternative.

I have firsthand experience of the dedication that Midas Gold has to the community. Midas is committed to buying products locally and hiring local employees whenever possible. They have already invested millions of dollars directly into the economy in Valley County. Those dollars aren't dependent on a good snow year, or a warm enough summer to play in the lake. The economic benefit that Midas Gold brings to Valley County is steady and year-round, the perfect complement to the tourist economy that ebbs and flows. Valley County needs this. Midas Gold will directly employ approximately 500 employees during construction and operations. Payroll is expected to exceed \$34 million annually. These numbers do not even capture the indirect jobs created by operating a mine here. The project has the potential to have a positive, widespread impact on the entire state.

As a recreationalist, I appreciate the time Midas has spent researching the recreational impacts of the project and where possible, finding a solution for recreationalist to still access areas around and beyond the mine site. Different recreationalist stakeholder groups were included in the planning process to develop the best possible plan. Utilizing the Burntlog Route as an access to the mine is the best solution for recreation and mine traffic. Alternative 4 does not address the fact that recreation and mine traffic will all be using the same access road that will parallel Johnson creek for many miles, this is not an acceptable alternative.

Finally, this project has not been rushed or hurried in any way. Midas Gold has spent a decade in the Stibnite region without earning a single dollar from mining. They are investing in doing this project correctly. Mining is not the same as it was done in the 1930's or 50's or 70's. The United States has strict mining laws for good reason. Midas is happy to comply with these new mining regulations because they believe in safe mining practices for both the environment and employees. Beyond the NEPA process the Stibnite Gold Project will require about 50 other permits from Government agencies who are experts in their particular fields. This approval is only one step along the way. Alternative 2 is the best plan presented.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Johanna Defoort', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Johanna Defoort