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Comments: Attached for submittal is our comment letter in support of Midas Gold Idaho's Plan of Restoration and Operations. Midas Gold is a valued member of the Idaho Association of Commerce & Industry (IACI), the state's premier business association, and we are very supportive of its ongoing efforts on the Stibnite project. We encourage the USFS to approve this plan and allow Midas Gold to move forward with these critical and sound investments in Idaho.

On behalf of the Idaho Association of Commerce & Industry representing hundreds of businesses throughout the state, I write in support of the Stibnite Gold Project and the benefits it will bring to Idaho. This project has the potential to put hundreds of Idahoans to work, bring investment into our state and restore an area of Idaho's backcountry desperately in need of repair.

In 2015, our association honored Midas Gold with an award for environmental excellence. The award was based on the company's commitment to sustainable practices and investment in repairing an area left after an era of mining that occurred without the environmental rules and regulations in place today. They have planted close to 40,000 trees to help reduce the amount of sediment going into the river, produced 20,500 kWh of energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improved miles of road along the river to protect fish habitat.

Upon review of Midas Gold Idaho's Plan of Restoration and Operations, it is evident the company has created the best possible plan for site restoration. The company is limiting its footprint to existing effects wherever possible to lessen further impact; natural fish spawning routes will be restored after decades of blockage, and the company has plans to make improvements that will keep thousands of pounds of sediment out of the river each year. Unfortunately, if Midas Gold Idaho is not allowed to move forward with its plan, it is highly unlikely that these critical improvements will ever happen.

There are many checks and balances in place to ensure Midas Gold Idaho follows through on its promises to restore the site. In fact, the company is required by both state and federal laws to set aside all the money needed for restoration before mining begins. It should be noted that, since 1990, no hard rock mining operation has received CERCLA designation. This is largely due to the safe-guards set by state and federal agencies. Mining can, and is, done safely across this country. In this case, under Midas Gold Idaho's proven care and sustainable approaches, the project will have a net positive impact on the environment.

Throughout the project, Midas Gold Idaho plans to invest \$1 billion in Idaho, contribute \$86 million in state and local taxes, and invest hundreds of thousands of dollars to upgrade community infrastructure such as roads and power lines. These targeted investments in rural Idaho will have an incredible positive impact, and investments by a private company like this are extremely rare.

Midas Gold Idaho believes in local staffing and has promised to hire Idahoans whenever possible. The company will provide employees with training and help our state build a more skilled workforce. These jobs are not entry-level positions, and Midas Gold estimates salaries will be two times higher than the local average in Valley County. This can make a significant difference in the lives of many families.

This project is a huge opportunity for Idaho. I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to adopt the preferred alternative as outlined by Midas Gold Idaho so this brownfield site can finally be restored.