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First name: Clark

Last name: Kauffman

Organization: Idaho House of Representatives

Title: Representative

Comments: Access to public lands is a privilege extended to all Idahoans. Exploring the backcountry is part of many of our citizens DNA and it is what makes our state such an enviable place to live. As a lawmaker, I feel it is my obligation to protect access to our public lands for present and future generations to enjoy.

I am proud to welcome Midas Gold Idaho into our state and I fully support the Stibnite Gold Project. While some of the project will take place on public lands, Midas Gold has made a commitment to the community to ensure access is preserved to people's favorite places. For safety reasons the company plans to utilize the historic Burntlog Road during construction and operations.

The company selected this route after multiple meetings with community members and the Burntlog Road was only considered after community suggestions. To me this speaks volumes about the type of company Midas Gold Idaho is and showcases their commitment to doing the right thing.

Even though Midas Gold Idaho plans to close Stibnite Road outside of Yellow Pine, they have gone to great lengths to ensure Idahoans still have access to our backcountry. The company has even promised to provide parking for winter recreationalists at their maintenance facility. It is with this knowledge that I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to select the preferred alternative. Midas Gold Idaho presented its Plan of Restoration and Operations and continue to move the project forward.

Midas Gold Idaho wants to invest \$1 billion in Idaho, bring hundreds of jobs to rural Idaho and improve Idaho's public lands. This is the type of project Idaho needs. I strongly encourage the U.S. Forest Service and cooperating federal and state agencies to proceed with the Plan of Restorations and Operations as the preferred alternative moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration,