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First name: Steve

Last name: Bair

Organization: Idaho State Senate

Title: Chairman, Senate Resource & Environment Committee

Comments: As Chairman of the Resources and Environment Committee in the Idaho State Senate, I am writing to express my support for moving forward with the Stibnite Gold Project as described in the Plan of Reclamation and Operations submitted by Midas Gold Idaho.

The Stibnite Gold Project presents a plan to repair the environment and boost Idaho's economy. Historic mining operations, development of former town site and natural processes have resulted in significant degradation of many elements of the environment. Loss of fish passage, potential water degradation from previous mining activity and excessive erosion are all of great concern to all Idahoans. The Stibnite Gold Project would finance reclamation efforts to address these problems.

The proposed project will also be extremely beneficial for Idaho's economy. The new mine will be an economic boon with over 1,000 new jobs during the life of the mine and an estimated \$86 million in state corporate income and mine license taxes.

Midas and its team have done a great job of keeping legislative committee members updated regarding its progress. I have appreciated how Midas Gold has requested input from all stakeholders and included that input into the Plan of Reclamation and Operations. It is with this knowledge that I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to select Midas Gold's preferred alternative and continue to move the project forward.

Thank you for your time,