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Title:

Comments: As someone who is interested in seeing the Stibnite-Yellow Pine area return to its full environmental and economic potential, I am thankful for the chance to express my support for the proposed Stibnite Gold Project. I believe this project presents significant benefits for local economies and our entire country—and it includes robust plans to promote the ongoing safety of workers as well as the local environment.

As you may know, the Stibnite Mining District has been home to several thriving mining operations over the years, producing gold, tungsten, and antimony as well as other minerals. In addition to gold, antimony would be the main mineral targeted for production by the proposed project. Considered a critical mineral by the U.S. government, antimony has numerous industrial uses that can be applied to a broad range of industries, from aerospace and defense to green energy production to electronics.

During World War II, production of antimony in the Stibnite region reached its peak. But after the war, these efforts were abandoned and a series of subsequent mining projects over the years—mostly subject to relaxed regulations—left the area environmentally scarred. In outlining plans for the Stibnite Gold Project, Midas has laid out impressive environmental reclamation goals and strategies to not only revive production, but to do so in a way that ensures the protection of local fish and wildlife.

Additionally, the company has made painstaking efforts to incorporate the highest safety standards and best practices into every aspect of their plan for this project. As with any other mining project, there will be hazardous materials, both naturally occurring and manufactured, involved in this effort. However, Midas has taken steps to ensure the safe transport and handling of these materials, including by updating their hazardous materials transport plans; maintaining an on-site hazardous material response team and equipment; and working with local emergency response teams for training purposes.

Perhaps the biggest, most tangible benefit of the Stibnite Gold Project will be its sheer economic impact on surrounding communities in central Idaho. This project could support potentially thousands of well-paying jobs—directly and indirectly—throughout the construction phase and during operations of the mine, helping spur much-needed economic growth and new development throughout surrounding communities. At a cost of more than \$1 billion and over \$200 million annually to maintain, the project would inject hundreds of millions of dollars into our state's economy, creating jobs and significant tax revenue at the local and state levels.

Local workers and businesses, central Idaho communities, and our entire country will all benefit from the Stibnite Gold Project. I encourage you to approve Alternative 2 as offered by Midas in their modified Plan of Restoration and Operations and help ensure this project moves forward as soon as possible.