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First name: Joe

Last name: Palmer

Organization: House of Representatives, State of Idaho

Title: Idaho State Representative

Comments: As the representative of Idaho's 20th Legislative district and a former member of the Idaho Army National Guard, I have dedicated my life to the protection and prosperity of the Gem State. The Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho is an exciting opportunity to put this state's natural resources to good use, to help boost our economy, and generate investment in Idaho.

For these reasons, I am writing you today in support of the Stibnite Gold Project.

Idaho was settled upon vast untapped reserves of rare earth metals. Midas Gold is offering Idaho the opportunity to utilize and profit from these resources rather than squander them. Harvesting the gold and antimony deposits in Stibnite will generate significant revenue for the state and the nation's economy. If this project is granted approval, it would be a \$1 billion dollar investment in the state.

Another important note is the attention and integrity Midas Gold has demonstrated towards Idaho's communities. Midas has developed a community agreement program that will allow community members and organizations to provide input through the life of the project, guaranteeing that the interests and concerns of Idahoans are not ignored.

I appreciate the U.S. Forest Service for comprehensively examining the impacts of Midas Gold Idaho's project proposal. I recommend that the U.S. Forest Service adopt Alternative 2 examined in the draft environmental impact statement and get this project moving forward.