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First name: Jim

Last name: Guthrie

Organization: Idaho State Senate

Title: Idaho State Senator, District 28

Comments: Beyond my personal desire to see my home state of Idaho succeed, my role as an Idaho State Senator demands that I review and promote initiatives and business opportunities that create the best economic climate for Idahoans to prosper. Therefore, in regards to the draft Environmental Impact Statement released by the U.S. Forest Service assessing Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project, I believe this is an incredible opportunity for Idaho to claim a billion dollar investment and clean up decades of environmental degradation in the Stibnite area.

From an economic standpoint this project facilitates plentiful, well-paying jobs for the state. During construction Midas intends to employ as many as 1,000 employees with wages that average \$80,000 annually. The broader economic impact is less obvious but equally as lucrative with nearly \$30 million in direct, indirect and induced impacts during the construction period. Public entities like schools, law enforcement and municipal governments are expected to receive \$300,000 annually from property taxes on the project. Clearly the Stibnite Gold Project is a win-win for private and public entities.

As an environmental steward, Midas Gold Idaho has filed a Plan of Restoration and Operations with the U.S. Forest Service to ensure their operations leave the land in a condition better than it was found. Midas' operations, safety and technological equipment is state of the art and in full compliance with all laws and regulations.

I encourage the U.S. Forest Service to consider and adopt Alternative 2 examined in the draft Environmental Impact Statement so that the Stibnite Gold project may proceed, bringing jobs, tax revenues, and environmental friendliness to Idaho.