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First name: Steve

Last name: Bair

Organization: Idaho State Senate

Title: Senator, District 31

Comments: I am writing to express my support for the Stibnite Gold Project under consideration by U.S. Forest Service. As an Idaho Senator and member of the Senate Resources Committee, I can see firsthand how this project can help Idaho repair our environment while providing a windfall of economic benefits for our communities.

The project will be a \$1 billion investment in the state, and will employ up to 1,000 employees during construction, most of whom will be fellow Idahoans. Statewide, the mid-range estimates for direct, indirect and induced benefits from labor income include \$110 million in annual income during construction, over \$70 million during operations and over \$70 million during reclamation - this is a huge economic benefit for the state.

The benefits to Idahoans go beyond investment and job opportunities. Midas Gold Idaho is extremely focused on reclaiming land previously impacted by historic mining projects. I know how important it is that we leave our earth better than we found it. After reviewing Midas Gold's Plan of Restoration and Operations (PRO) I am confident Midas Gold Idaho intends to do just that and execute their plan in the most environmentally friendly way possible that will actually leave this area better off.

The economic and environmental benefits are clear. That is why after careful consideration, I implore the U.S. Forest Service to adopt Alternative 2 laid out in the draft EIS and allow Midas Gold Idaho to proceed responsibly.