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First name: Judy
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Organization: House of Representatives, State of Idaho
Title: House Agriculture Affairs Committee Chair
Comments: I write today in support of the proposed Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho and to thank you for the timely release of the draft Environmental Impact Statement. I strongly believe that this is an opportunity for our state that cannot be ignored.

The Stibnite Gold Project is a $1 bil lion investment in the Gem State that will employ hundreds of Idahoans as well as generate significant resources for our economy. With upward of 1,000 new jobs created during construction and Midas Gold Idaho's commitment to hiring locally for many of those jobs, this is a tremendous opportunity to build a skil led workforce. However, it is not only Idaho's economy that will benefit from the project. The Stibnite Gold Project area has been mined for over 100 years leaving legacy issues unsolved by either industry or government. With the Stibnite Gold Project, surrounding communities finally have workable solution to address these expensive and complex legacy issues thanks to the willingness of Midas Gold to tackle problems not of their creation.

The area is plagued with abandoned pits, blocked fish passages, accelerated erosion, increased water sedimentation and many other environmental hazards. This project provides the type of private investment needed to restore these lands and re-establish the salmon and steel head fish passages for years to come. Midas Gold painstakingly studied many alternatives for each project phase of operations and restoration. We all should be very grateful for their steadfast efforts for Idaho.

Idaho cannot afford to turn away an invitation to better our economy and environment. I highly encourage the U.S. Forest Service to move forward with Alternative 2 examined in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and allow the Stibnite Gold Project to commence as soon as possible.