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First name: Gayann

Last name: DeMordaunt

Organization: House of Representatives, State of Idaho

Title: Legislative District 14, Seat B

Comments: As an Idaho state Representative, I'm always looking out for opportunities that will improve our state's economic and environmental well-being. The U.S. Forest Service has released its draft Environmental Impact Statement for Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project and I am writing to express my support for this project. I thank the Forest Service for the exhaustive work your agency has done to date because this project has the potential to restore Idaho's lands and waterways while generating significant financial benefits for us all.

Past mining activity left behind considerable damage to our environment in the Stibnite region. Blocked waterways have depleted salmon and steelhead populations and erosion has accelerated dramatically damaging water quality. Restoring our lands is an expensive task and requires private investment. Midas Gold Idaho is committed to providing that private investment, for not only restoring the land they use, but significantly improving upon that region's current state.

As a mother and member of the House Education Committee, I understand that direct investments in Idaho classrooms are critical to giving our kids a bright future. Our local communities, including our schools and law enforcement would receive up to \$300,000 in property tax revenues annually from this project. This money will be used to ensure classrooms have the tools they need to help our children succeed.

Midas Gold Idaho is also committed to hiring and training local Idahoans throughout the duration of the project. Positions with this project are projected to pay more than four times what the leading industries in that area currently pay. Not to mention, Midas has plans to provide training opportunities for employees giving Idahoans skills they will carry with them for the rest of their careers. Local jobs mean increased tax revenues in our communities - Midas Gold has submitted a plan that will strengthen Idaho's workforce and our future.

I encourage you to adopt Alternative 2 outlined by Midas Gold Idaho and allow the project to proceed in a responsible and timely fashion. It truly is in Idaho's best interest to see this project developed.