

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/28/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Barbara

Last name: Ehardt

Organization: House of Representatives, State of Idaho

Title: District 33, Seat A

Comments: I am writing you today to express my support for the Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project under consideration in the U.S. Forest Service's recently released draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

After review of the draft EIS, I am confident that this proposal will bring prosperity to Idaho families while protecting our environment. I urge you to adopt Alternative 2 as outlined in their proposal and allow the company to responsibly move forward with this project.

Midas Gold has made a promise to Idaho families, working to bring high-paying jobs back to the region and providing future opportunities for Idaho's youth. In fact, they have programs in place already that specifically focus on educating our children and preparing them for the next generation economy. Working with schools throughout Valley and Adams County, Midas has established afterschool programs focused on coding and STEM programs. Midas Gold's after-school program teaches students to code and build robots, making learning about the technology of the future fun, while enriching.

Midas Gold is committed to our families, by providing new jobs and bringing increased in state tax revenues to Idaho. If permitted, the Stibnite Gold Project would represent a \$1 billion dollar investment in Idaho. Midas Gold plans to hire up to 1,000 employees during operations and will have a yearly payroll of up to \$51 million. This money will spread throughout Idaho communities as it is spent at local stores, restaurants, and on housing. An independent study of the economic impacts found that during the construction phase the direct impact on the economy would amount to \$18 million.

This project has the potential to impact many lives across Idaho for the better. I hope you will take my comments into consideration and move forward with this project.