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First name: Steve

Last name: Thayn

Organization: Idaho State Senate, State of Idaho

Title: Idaho State Senator, District 8

Comments: After more than a decade of public service in the Idaho State Legislature, I am extremely committed to improving the economic wellbeing of the Gem State. That is why I am writing you today in support of the Stibnite Gold Project presented by Midas Gold Idaho. I applaud the work of the U.S. Forest Service and the rigorous evaluation process undertaken for the release of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). I hope you will review my comments in support of the project and encourage you to accept Alternative 2 as outlined in the draft EIS.

Idaho is in need of good paying high-skilled jobs and that is why the Stibnite Gold Project is so important for our state. This project will inject hundreds of millions of dollars into Idaho's economy while bringing sorely needed jobs to the state. Valley County had the ninth highest unemployment rate in Idaho, and Midas Gold plans to bring up to 1,000 jobs to the area during the 20-year life cycle of the project. Many of those positions will be filled by Idahoans.

Additionally, this project is a chance to restore years of environmental degradation left from legacy mining in Stibnite area. Most of the previous work done in this area was prior to essential regulatory requirements that ensured restoration and reclamation of the environment occurred. Environmental restoration is an extremely costly endeavor, one Idaho will need private investment in order to properly fix. Midas Gold is committed to that investment and cleaning up the site.

This project is vital to the development of Idaho. I hope you will consider my support of this project while making your decision and will act to move this project along in a quick manner.