

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/31/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Ryan

Last name: Kerby

Organization: House of Representatives, State of Idaho

Title: District 9

Comments: As the representative of Idaho's 9th Legislative district, I write to express my support for the proposed Stibnite Gold Project. If allowed to move forward, the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho will be a \$1 billion dollar investment in Idaho and will bring hundreds of well-paying jobs to rural communities. Such an investment has the potential to provide huge opportunities for many families in my district and across Idaho.

As the former New Plymouth School Superintendent, it should come as no surprise that educational and professional opportunities for young Idahoans are of particular importance to me. For that reason, I am particularly encouraged by Midas Gold's commitment to look first to Idaho for its required workforce and vendors. According to an independent project analysis, Midas Gold Idaho intends to employ at least 400 Idaho residents during the operations portion of the project. In addition, local communities would see \$300,000 annually from property taxes alone that are desperately needed for our communities.

My support for the project and the benefits it offers is not unique. In February of 2018, the Idaho Legislature passed, with overwhelming support, a joint memorial urging the approval of Midas Gold's Stibnite Gold Project in a timely and cost-effective manner. I was one of 71 lawmakers who signed on as co-sponsors of the joint memorial.

The bipartisan backing of this proposed initiative, in conjunction with the economic and educational opportunities it can provide, is reason enough to move this project forward in the permitting process. After careful consideration, I ask the U.S. Forest Service to adopt Alternative 2 laid out draft environmental impact statement.