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Organization:

Title:

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To Whom it May Concern,

I have reviewed Midas Gold's Stibnite Gold Project's Plan of Restoration and Operations (PRO) and strongly encourage that Alternative 2 be approved.

Midas Gold has presented a complete and comprehensive plan to restore the area. The numerous restoration and mitigation components of this Project exceed what the law requires. I commend Midas Gold who is willing to take on decade's old environmental liabilities, that are not theirs, but from WWII era government sponsored / managed war time production efforts.

It seems vital for private investment to step forward with a plan to address these abandoned legacies.

Upon issuance of the Record of Decision (ROD), the site can be cleaned up by private equity in an innovative way without resorting to duplicative nor excessive government oversight. It is such a smart idea for Midas Gold to mine, re-mine, reclaim, remediate, and restore the Site.

Socioeconomics -- a significant benefit of the Project are the positive socioeconomic impacts as noted by mining in Idaho:

[acirc][euro][cent] Mining and minerals processing jobs are among the highest paying jobs in Idaho.

[acirc][euro][cent] In 2017, the average mine worker made over \$110,000 per year (including wages/salary and benefits).

[acirc][euro][cent] Total direct payroll (fully loaded) for mining in Idaho totaled nearly \$212 million in 2017, not including subcontractors.

[acirc][euro][cent] Mining firms in Idaho added \$968.1 million to gross state product (a subset of sales).

[acirc][euro][cent] A multiplier effect of 1.70 (e.g. the direct, indirect, and induced impacts), added \$567.8 million in total payroll compensation (a subset of gross state product) and created 8,735 jobs.

[acirc][euro][cent] Mining in Idaho directly employed 2,711 workers, and an additional 6,024 jobs were created.

[acirc][euro][cent] The employment multiplier is 3.19 for the 2017 impacts. For every 1 direct mining job, an additional 2.19 jobs are created in the Idaho economy. This jobs multiplier is robust because of three major factors: First, the high wages paid to mining workers creates a high level of employee spending and strong downstream consumer linkages to the overall economy. Secondly, there are deep backward linkages from mining activity to Idaho's economy from the products and services that firms purchase from other Idaho's businesses. Finally, mine processing also has robust employment multipliers resulting from industry's economic linkages. Mining and mineral processing represents a significant component to Idaho's economy providing high, living wage jobs, throughout the state.

Reference: [acirc][euro]oeEconomic Impacts of Idaho Mining Association Member Firms 2007-2017, sponsored

by the Idaho Mining Association, completed by Steven Peterson, Research Economist, November 11, 2019

On a personal note, we have lived in Caribou County, Idaho (Soda Springs) for almost 35 years. During that time, I have served on the City Council for 25 of those years. I can personally attest to the significant benefits of the mining and mineral processing industry to our local and regional economies.

The following are some local examples of the positive socioeconomic impacts from mining:

1) In August 2019, a Record of Decision (ROD) for Bayer's (P4 Production, LLC, formerly Monsanto) Caldwell Canyon Mine was issued. As a result of the mine's approval, the following economic benefits will continue for another three decades to come:

- o 390 full time jobs and a payroll of \$53.0 million including benefits
- o Almost 400 additional full-time subcontractor jobs with a payroll of \$73.5 million
- o Considering the multiplier effects, total direct and indirect employment tied to Bayer's operations in Caribou County and southeast Idaho is over 1,400 with total earnings of almost \$100 million.
- o Total taxes on production and imports (federal, state, and local) tied to the region is almost \$11 million.

Reference: Bayer (P4 Production, LLC, Soda Springs, Idaho; formerly Monsanto), Economic Analysis by Esther Eke, PhD, Regional Economist, State of Idaho, 2018.

2) Economic analysis for: Itafos Conda, LLC's (formerly Agrium) Rasmussen Valley and Lane Creek Mines (Reference: Agrium's Conda Phosphate Operations (CPO) and Western Farm Services, an Economic Analysis; Idaho Economics; Boise, Idaho; 2008.) would yield similar socioeconomic benefits for this mine operation located in Caribou County.

It is not too far of a stretch to assume Valley County and the surrounding region will see similar socio-economic benefits from the Stibnite Gold Project.

As the U.S. Forest Service and other state and federal agencies review the proposed plan and determine the course of action, I encourage you to consider and appropriately weigh the positive benefits Midas Gold will have on Idaho. Alternative 2 truly is a win-win opportunity for Idaho and its economy.

Thanks for your consideration,

Mitchell J. Hart, P.E.

Soda Springs, Idaho

Name: Mitchell