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Comments: I am writing to express my views on Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. The opportunity presented by the Stibnite Gold Project is compelling for many reasons and it is a project I am committed to seeing come to fruition.

The project will bring huge economic benefits to the rural communities surrounding the project site. Midas Gold will directly employ 400-500 employees during construction and operations. Payroll is expected to exceed \$34 million. These numbers do not even capture the indirect jobs I am confident nearby towns will see from the Stibnite Gold Project.

The Stibnite Gold Project will generate significant federal, state and local taxes over the life of the project. Estimates show the company will contribute \$86 million in state taxes over two decades. The economic benefits tied in with the environmental restoration of the site provide a win-win for the citizens who live in the surrounding communities, the state and the general population.

Additionally, historic mining operations, development of former town site, and natural processes have resulted in significant degradation of many elements of the environment. Loss of fish passage, potential water degradation from previous mining activity and excessive erosion are all of great concern to our community. The Stibnite Gold Project would finance reclamation efforts to address these problems and in turn boost Idaho's economy. All of these reclamation efforts are clear in alternative 2 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and that is why I am asking you to permit alternative 2.

While the economic benefits of this project cannot be ignored, it also will transform an area in need for environmental repair. It is for all of these reasons that I encourage you to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward.