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Organization: House of Representatives, State of Idaho

Title: District 1

Comments: I am writing to offer support for the approval of Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. As one of the representatives for Idaho's 1st District, I am proud to serve my district and communities and promote rewarding opportunities that will benefit Idaho citizens and businesses. Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project is one of these opportunities. The proposed project is a significant investment in Idaho that will allow our state to develop our own natural resources, gain significant revenues and create much needed jobs. After reviewing the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) I believe this is an opportunity Idaho cannot afford to miss or be denied.

Should the Stibnite Gold Project be approved, Midas Gold Idaho plans to invest \$1 billion in the state of Idaho. This money will go towards constructing the project, upgrading power and public roads infrastructure, and restoring region's environment after years of unregulated mining. But the financial impact of this project will extend far beyond the initial \$1 billion investment. The Stibnite Gold Project would generate \$300,000 annually in property taxes to help support education initiatives, emergency services, and local law enforcement.

This project also presents a chance to bring quality jobs back to Idaho and help continue to rejuvenate our once strong mining industry. Midas Gold plans to employ 500 Idahoans throughout the life of the project, and hundreds more Idahoans will find work in jobs indirectly created to support the project's activities. The average salaries for these workers would be substantially higher than the average salaries of the majority of jobs currently found within Valley County. Midas Gold has also pledged to use local vendors and products whenever possible, meaning that local businesses will prosper through increased stable streams of revenue.

This project has the potential to catalyze Idaho's economy and allow its workforce to compete in the 21st century economy. I strongly urge the U.S. Forest Service to adopt Alternative 2 presented by Midas Gold in their proposal and allow this project to proceed in the permitting process.