

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/30/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Chrisy

Last name: Zito

Organization: Idaho House of Representatives

Title:

Comments: As representative for Idaho's 23rd District, it is my responsibility to ensure my constituents with opportunities to better themselves while promoting initiatives that help to build a stronger Idaho. The U.S. Forest Service released its draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project and I am writing to express my support for the project and the adoption of Alternative 2. This project offers Idahoans economic opportunity as well as a chance to restore Idaho's environment. I hope you will consider the following comments throughout the rest of your assessment.

Previous mining companies left the environment at the Stibnite Mining District in turmoil. However, Midas Gold is committed to being different. In their proposal, Midas Gold promises to restore the natural habitats of salmon and steelhead fish and unblock waterways. They plan to focus on spawning habitat to ensure a long-term impact. The project also seeks to address the empty lots, increased deforestation and erosion issues plaguing the Stibnite region. Midas Gold is devoted to correcting the environmental degradation caused by other mining companies while creating environmental improvements that will have a lasting impact.

A \$1 billion investment in Idaho is an economic opportunity that cannot be ignored. An independent study found that the Stibnite Gold Project will produce over \$150 million in state and local tax revenues. This money will go back into our communities and provide Idahoans the economic stability they need while attracting new businesses to Idaho. Midas Gold committed to hiring locally and to adequately training their employees, helping Idaho build a stronger workforce in the present as well as in the future. Our children have the opportunity to receive a better education as schools will also benefit from \$300K annually in property taxes. Idaho cannot afford to pass on the Stibnite Gold Project as it provides vast economic opportunity at no additional costs to our taxpayers.

Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project will secure the economic future for Idaho and ensure the environment is protected. I would like to urge the U.S. Forest Service to implement Alternative 2 proposed by Midas Gold Idaho.