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First name: Senator Steve

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Organization: Idaho State Senate

Title: District 2

Comments: After review of the recently released draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project, I can see the benefit this project will have not only on our state's economy but on our state's environment. That is why I am writing to you today in support this important project and hope that you will consider my comments during your final review of this project.

As a member of the Senate State Affairs Committee and Assistant Majority Leader, environmental restoration is a high priority for me. Major environmental obstacles still remain intact in the Stibnite region from pit lakes that block critical fish migration to the upper reaches of the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River to deforestation and the degradation of existing natural waterways. This project will clean up and restore the damage left behind from past projects and has a robust reclamation plan in place that will ensure the land is left in a better condition than when it was found .

As a business owner, I realize how vitally important it would be to bring a massive amount of jobs and tax revenue to the state - the Stibnite Gold Project does this. An independent economic study found that this project would employ up to 1,000 employees during construction, and up to 200 employees during closure and reclamation. That would generate over \$150 million in state and local tax revenues. Additionally , Midas Gold has committed to purchasing all available supplies locally, further supporting local Idaho businesses.

The draft EIS you have published is an essential step in the approval process of this project, and I am appreciative to the U.S. Forest Service for the comprehensive analysis performed. This project would mean a \$1 billion investment in our state, and I urge you to move this process along by adopting Alternative 2.