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The leadership and the majority of our almost 200 members of American Legion Post 60 wholeheartedly support the Stibnite Gold Project and Midas Gold's efforts to restore the current Stibnite mine and to mine for gold and antimony. We support Alternative 2.

Although there are numerous reasons why we support the Stibnite Gold Project and we believe our members will provide individual and personalized letters of support, I want to focus on two reasons why we support the project. These two major reasons are economic and national security. Both of these are core to what we are about. I will also indicate why we support Alternative 2.

To begin I (we) believe Midas Gold has been and is a good neighbor and their efforts to bring this project to fruition is above reproach. They are an ethical company and have been a good neighbor to our communities. Their approach to the Stibnite Gold Project is forward leaning. The creation of the Stibnite Advisory Council and the Stibnite Foundation are "gold standards" in keeping us informed and helping the communities plan.

We believe Alternative 2 is the lowest overall risk alternative. It impacts the environment the least, and identifies the best transportation alternative that has no major fish bearing waterways impact. We strongly believe that Alternative 5 is not optimal because it will not have the environmental restoration expected. Alternative 5 contains other flaws such as failure to identify significant and meaningful jobs.

#### Economic

As an organization of veterans, we are concerned for veteran welfare and their ability to gain meaningful employment. Our perspective is jobs and we need jobs in Valley County. Midas Gold will bring approximately 1,000 direct jobs and countless jobs that will trickle from the establishment of mining. These jobs will be well paying and contain benefits. I believe this will be beneficial to the veteran community.

#### National Security

As veterans we always are concerned about national security. A major mineral that will be mined is antimony. Currently the two major worldwide sources of antimony are China and Russia. The United States does not currently produce any antimony and this is unacceptable. Antimony is critical to the

aerospace, medical, information technologies, and first responder's tools. We cannot and must not allow this to continue.

The membership of the American Legion Post 60 unequivocally supports the Stibnite Gold Project. There are countless other reasons to support Midas Gold but I wanted to focus on the two that align with our core reason for being - our *raison d'etre*