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First name: Dusty

Last name: Hibbard

Organization: Granite Excavation, Inc.

Title: General Manager

Comments: I am the General Manager for Granite Excavation, a statewide, locally owned firm boasting more than 165 employees throughout Idaho. I work on various projects in the Treasure Valley and today I'm writing to express my support for Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. This project presents our state with an incredible opportunity to bring well-paying jobs to rural Idaho, boost our state's economy and use private investment to clean up a brownfield site. I hope that by the end of this process you'll approve Alternative 2 in the draft EIS.

Personally, I believe the project presents the only meaningful plan I've ever witnessed to finally restore the environment at Stibnite while actually boosting Idaho's economy. It's no secret that previous mining activities have left Stibnite in horrible shape, from water quality concerns, waste and loss of the fish passage - the site needs help. The Stibnite Gold Project would finance reclamation efforts to address these problems, including reconnecting salmon with their native spawning grounds for the first time in 80 years, while also boosting the economy. And unlike previous mining efforts, which saw operators cut and run, leaving Idaho with a mess it cannot afford to clean up on its own, new laws and regulations require Midas Gold to set aside all of the money needed for restoration prior to any mining activity.

In the nearly 10 years the company has been exploring the viability of this project, Midas has been a tremendous partner, hiring locally whenever possible and investing millions into local infrastructure improvements and community giving. Their wonderful staff has spent countless hours out in the community, working with local schools, holding regular office hours and giving nearly 100 tours to the site since 2018. Midas has also entered into a formal partnership with many of the communities near the project site that will give the towns a regular opportunity to directly engage with company leadership through the life of the project. And that's beyond the outreach Midas has already done, soliciting public input and feedback into improving the project's proposal, with many of those recommendations and ideas incorporated into Alternative 2 in the draft EIS.

Midas will create nearly 700 jobs during construction and maintain upward of 600 full-time, well-paying jobs during the life of the project, while investing millions in tax revenue and new wages into the region. These are jobs that won't be seasonal in nature and, at nearly \$80,000 a year, will help families put food on the table for many years to come.

I appreciate your time, Ms. Jackson, and I understand you have a lot to consider between now and Oct. 13. So in conclusion, I'd urge you to be detailed and thorough in your analysis and I truly believe you'll see what most of the region has already. Midas is a good partner, the company is committed to Idaho and hiring Idahoans at a time when the economy continues to try and recover, and they're committed to cleaning up an environmental mess at Stibnite they did not create.

I urge you to approve the project as outlined by Midas Gold in Alternative 2.