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First name: Boise Metro Chamber

Last name: Commerce

Organization: Boise Metro Chamber

Title: Vice President, Government & Community Relations

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comment on this resource development project here in Idaho. The Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce is Idaho's largest business-first organization, advocating for the advancement of business and community in the Gem State. We serve more than 1,800 member businesses representing more than 120,000 employees in the Boise-area.

The Boise Metro Chamber advocates for a vibrant and prosperous economy for the region with responsible and committed business partners. With headquarters in Boise, Midas Gold Idaho has been a member of our community for a decade. During that time, the company and their employees have supported community initiatives, volunteered their time in our schools and given generously to important community causes.

A commitment to social responsibility defines many employers in Idaho and it is important to us to see this commitment driving Midas Gold's business approach. Early on, Midas Gold prioritized in their project design the cleanup of a brownfield site with degraded water quality and habitat. This commitment to investing in Idaho's environment is a commendable approach that confirms the long-held belief in Idaho that business needs and environmental needs can be balanced to work together. We have seen Midas Gold staff engage with the public in an open and transparent manner and invest in processes that promote and enhance coordination and communication with local communities.

The natural resource industry has a long history in Idaho, we support and encourage modern-day extraction industries to make commitments to environmental sustainability, community engagement and transparency like those made by Midas Gold. Doing so brings the industry in line with the business culture of Idaho.

Our organization's mission is to promote the economic vitality of Idaho's largest metropolitan area, and we foresee the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho having a positive impact on this region and the state's economy. We have seen Midas Gold prioritize hiring, contracting, and spending locally and becoming a meaningful partner in our economy which has already brought approximately \$89 million into Idaho.

Upon review of Alternative 2 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, we believe that the Stibnite Gold Project could bring additional economic benefits Idaho. During the proposed project operations, direct employment of over for 500 individuals, training programs and infrastructure development including 73 miles of transmission line upgrades and intersection improvements will have benefits that go far beyond the Stibnite Gold Project and multiply out to support vibrant and resilient communities, businesses, and workforce opportunities across the

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state. As an example, the project anticipates \$298 million annually in direct, indirect and induced sales transactions which will share benefits across multiple sectors in Idaho.

Of course, any project of this scale must be held to the highest environmental standards and processes for review and monitoring throughout the life of the project. We also expect that financial assurance for the project will be robustly calculated to ensure Idaho's natural resources and taxpayers will be protected.

If the company can show that mining and legacy restoration work can be completed in such a way to bring economic benefits while protecting our natural resources, we urge the U.S. Forest Service to move forward permitting Alternative 2 and bringing the Stibnite Gold Project to Idaho.

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