

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/27/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Dr Ned

Last name: Mamula

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Attention Ms. Jackson,

I am Dr. Ned Mamula, geologist and author of the new book on critical minerals titled: Groundbreaking! America's New Quest for Mineral Independence. Unlike many others who have written against the Stibnite Midas Gold project, I have visited the site, looked at the geology, the environment, and written extensively about Stibnite and its gold and antimony ore, as well as other critical minerals needed by our country currently being imported from communist china.

As an economic geologist with over 30 plus years in this business, I can assure you that ore deposits are located where they are, and we cannot wish them to be elsewhere. That means policymakers such as you and others in land management agencies need to ensure that politicians are made aware of the long-time classic American environmental principle of "Multiple Land Use". Application of that principle developed by environmentalists more than a century ago, means that the Stibnite location can be mined to the benefit of Idaho and the nation, it can then be restored by the companies who mine the resource, then the land can support timber, fishing, farming, and on top of that, the land can also be used for hiking, hunting and other recreation.

This is how we are supposed to use the natural resource blessings America has been given, not preserve them into the future when it may be too late because the U.S. has foolishly increased its dependency on foreign imports instead of reducing that reliance. This is also the American way---i.e. not having one rigid natural resource usage solution--but many positive alternatives to the benefit of us all if we so choose. Saying that we must have mining OR a clean environment in the same place is an absolute false choice. We can and do have both in many other parts of the country.

America needs to mine its mineral wealth in a responsible way for the sake of our economy and national security--especially because we are now wildly over-reliant for critical minerals on more than one communist regime. China controls most of the world's antimony ore and has hinted that they will withhold critical minerals from us to the detriment of our economy and national security--something that the U.S. cannot afford and must avoid. Not only has production at Stibnite supported and shortened World War II, but it has been an important contributor to the economy of Idaho.

Midas Gold Idaho has already spent millions on restoring the area before they received their mining permit. Furthermore, all eyes are on the approval of this project because it is so different than all other mining proposals--the mining company has cleaned up mistakes and environmental abuses of the past ahead of planned mining--and will continue its commitment to the environment there during and after mining.

This makes the Idaho Stibnite Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho a new way of doing business and a likely template for the way mining will be done in the future. It also means that America will be able to meet its goals of providing renewable energy because it will have the critical minerals need to accomplish that goal--antimony among them!

Thank you for your kind consideration and please contact me should you have any questions \regarding the facts that I have presented here.