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First name: John

Last name: Campbell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom this may concern,

My name is John Campbell, and I am writing this letter as a way to voice my opinion on the current plan to allow the Midas Gold Idaho Inc. to operate an open pit mine in the Stibnite region of the Salmon River.

My overall opinion of this project is this it will not benefit the local communities, and will lead to more environmental degradation within the South Fork drainage which in turn will lead to environmental issues down stream and in the surrounding area, as well as open the door for other mining companies to operate on National Forest and public lands.

Idaho is one of the most wild states in the union, comprised of almost 75% public lands. A long time ago Idaho decided that it would protect these lands from the industries that would harm the land, as well as the animals and people who rely on this land for life. I am against allowing a company to create a mine in this rural and wild area, especially as the land of the proposed site, as well as the proposed infrastructure will be built on this public land, as well as National Forest.

Not only will this mine destroy land that was set aside for recreational purpose and preservation, the costs of this mine will land on the tax payers. As it stands, my tax dollars go to protecting this land for the future and generations to come. That is where I want my money to go as I love Idaho and its vast wilderness. I do not wish to pay for a mining company to mar this land anymore than it has.

The south fork has a long history of logging and mining, this is true. But this long history has led to the near extinction of our salmon and native trout populations. In my opinion, it is more cost effective and environmentally sound to focus on preserving and bolstering these fish populations to a point they can grow, rather than approve a mine that will have a vastly negative environmental impact on an area that was already decimated by human involvement, and has been fighting to heal itself for the last century. The future of Idaho lies within protecting its pristine wilderness, and not with siding with corporate interests trying to exploit our lands as a way to make a profit.

Mining operations will also make these areas less safe, with the large amount of trucking and equipment involved, giving profits to the mine and making it dangerous for the people using this public land. A new proposed road will not in fact correct this as it will lead to more destruction of wilderness, and more land being given up for corporate profits. The sale of land to a private corporation will also open the flood gates for other mines wanting to operate in public lands to push for more destruction with minimal profits coming back to the local communities that these operations will displace.

As I go I will leave you with my final thoughts, This mine will not help local communities, or the greater state of Idaho. It will lead to environmental degradation, and harm the already fragile animal and fish populations of the South Fork, It will trade public lands and safety for corporate profits that will not be returned to the communities in the areas it harms, and it will set a precedent for future mining operations to do the same in similar areas throughout the great state of Idaho.

I hope you take these comments into consideration, and decide not to trade Idaho's future for corporate interests. Protect the land that we love and protect Idaho's future.