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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please see my attached comment letter for the Stibnite Gold Project.

Thank you, Jeff Sayer

As a former Director of the Idaho Department of Commerce, I understand the importance and challenges of advancing the economic growth in rural Idaho communities. It is an honor to add my full endorsement and support for the Midas Gold project.

To successfully grow a local community, economic growth must find the delicate balance between job growth, wage growth, community and infrastructure growth, all amidst the ever-changing needs and demands of local stakeholders. The hope of any community is to cultivate growth that can simultaneously accomplish those objectives.

The holy grail many rural communities yearn for is to find a single project, with a good corporate partner, that meets all those objectives. Midas Gold is proposing one of those projects.

Imperative Economic Growth

The economic boost that Midas would create for Valley County and its residents cannot be understated. The financial impacts are real, they would be material and would be life-changing for hundreds, if not thousands of area residents.

High Paying Jobs: The expected average Midas salary of \$64,800 is considerably higher than the current average Valley County wages of \$49,630. The differences are even greater for the local communities of Cascade and Donnelly due to the mathematical impact of higher incomes in neighboring McCall. As noted in the Idaho Department of Labor wage reports, "the relatively high number of well-heeled retirees moving into the county recently contributes to the higher income, despite the relatively low wages earned in the tourism sector," is a very real dynamic for many of the county residents who do not live in McCall.

According to the Idaho Department of Labor, the average wages for the employed residents (excluding retirees) is closer to \$37,900. In short, the improvement to local wages is considerable and cannot be understated.

Increase in Jobs: The same impact to the number of jobs that Midas would bring to the region is also considerable. The Idaho Department of Labor estimate of covered wages in the county account for 4,949 jobs. The estimated 500 to 600 direct jobs Midas would create is over a 10% increase in jobs. When expanded to all direct, indirect and induced jobs the anticipated increase in jobs is 4,690, which would be close to a 95% increase in available jobs for the region.

To further extend the importance of the job increase is an important Midas statement which clarifies their commitment to "encourage the hiring of qualified local people and work with nearby communities to lessen any negative social, lifestyle and economic impacts on local residents." To bring this level of job activity, would forever elevate lives of hundreds of residents and would create permanent economic improvement in their lives and in their communities. Again, a point that cannot be understated.

## Invaluable Corporate Partner

Midas has demonstrated at every step in this process a dedication to the community and a sensitivity to the concerns many residents have to their project. They have exemplified their ability to be the ideal corporate partner the region needs to not only help absorb the impact of growth, but more importantly, to be the partner the community needs to bring opposing stakeholders together with respectful solutions.

## Conclusion

To not allow this project to move forward would be a travesty to both this generation and future generations of Valley County. I add my enthusiastic and wholehearted endorsement to this project and the perpetual improvements it can bring to Idaho.