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Comments: I am a government and economics teacher and my support for the Stibnite proposal is primarily tied to the economic effects of this project. The Cascade through McCall area of Idaho has endured a long time of economic stress. The closing of the lumber mill in Cascade especially had deleterious effects on the local economy. The Stibnite project would bring new skilled employment into the area at higher than average wages. These skilled workers and their families would place economic and educational demands in this area of Idaho where, in my experience, such pressure has been lacking.

In a number of conversations with education colleagues in the area and elsewhere in Idaho I have learned that most students are not interested in an education beyond what is necessary for the current job market. In Boise that will mean that many students will make plans to attend college and apply themselves in high school for that next level in education because so many jobs in that city require a college degree. Central Idaho towns are small and centered primarily on tourism, hospitality, and agricultural industries. That would change some if the mine is permitted. That would also encourage secondary job opportunities in these towns that hopefully could lead to other types of businesses in the area getting a start.

It strikes me as odd that one must seek permission from government officials to begin a business opportunity. My preference is to allow private interests take charge but the government has precluded private ownership of all the affected lands. The decision, therefore, will be made by government rather than a negotiation between neighbors and others downstream. So, Midas has put together a rehabilitation and restoration that will be implemented before the extraction of the ore begins. If the project is not approved, the river will never be rehabilitated. If the project is not approved the people living in the area are unlikely to be presented with work opportunities beyond the recreation and hospitality industry. I strongly urge the permitting of the Midas Gold proposal