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Organization: House of Representatives, State of Idaho

Title: Representative, District 8B

Comments: As a Representative of Idaho's 8th District I have a vested interest in ensuring the future of Idaho is filled with opportunities for all Idahoans. That is why I am writing in support of the Midas Gold Stibnite project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under public evaluation. This project will benefit my constituents and countless others throughout Idaho. Please consider the following comments during your review.

As a member of the Idaho House Resources & Conservation Committee and a mother of two, it is important for me to help shape and improve the legacy of our great state for future generations to come - the Stibnite Gold Project helps get that done. After receiving a Master of Science degree in Resource Planning, I worked for the City of Springfield, Missouri as their Environmental Planner with a primary interest in water quality. Living by the Salmon River has allowed me to see, first-hand, the blocked fish passages formed by the pit lake in Yellow Pine. That is why I am excited that Midas Gold has proposed an effort to restore the habitat and create a fish passage back to the Salmon River. The Stibnite Gold Project is a privately funded environmental reclamation initiative that will get the job done while removing the burden from the taxpayer and bringing jobs back home to District 8.

Idaho is home to one of the world's largest reserves of rare earth metals. We should not be eclipsed by foreign producers when Idaho has the means to cultivate its own resources under the highest standards of environmental awareness. According to an independent analysis by Highland Economics, of the nearly 600 workers Midas plans to hire during operations, approximately 500 of those workers would reside in Idaho. If this project is allowed to move forward it would be a \$1 billion dollar investment in Idaho; generating state and local tax revenues that will go toward education, local law enforcement, and local public works projects.

Mining is not only a passion of mine but my livelihood. It is imperative that we do everything that we can to support an industry so important to Idaho. This is why I was happy to sponsor House Joint Memorial 14 during the 2020 Idaho Legislative Session which recognized the contributions the mining industry has had on the history of Idaho over the last 160 years. I have attached HJM 14 to this letter for your review.

I hope you will think on these points and adopt Alternative 2 considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

ATTACHMENT: Statement of Purpose/Fiscal Note RS 27704-HJM014