

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/15/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Mark

Last name: Harris

Organization: Idaho State Senate

Title: Senator, District 32

Comments: I would like to lend my voice in support of the Stibnite Gold Project and Alternative 2 outlined in Midas Gold Idaho's proposal submitted to the U.S. Forest Service.

As an Idaho State Senator, when the Stibnite Gold Project was brought to my attention, I couldn't ignore the clear benefits this proposed project will have on our state and local economies.

The economic impacts of the proposed project is reason enough to allow the project to proceed. Over the twenty-year lifespan the project, Midas Gold Idaho has committed to a \$1 billion investment in Idaho. During construction alone, the project is expected to generate upwards of \$100 million dollars in tax revenues as a result of the 500 to 1,000 jobs the company plans to hire during this phase. The Stibnite project will help bring vital jobs back to the state; in fact, Midas expects many of these jobs to average \$80,000. That is a tremendous opportunity for the constituents of Valley County desperately need.

Due to the lax regulatory requirements that existed decades ago the Stibnite mining area was left in a poor condition. Today, Midas Gold Idaho has pledged to be a positive environmental steward by using technologies and equipment in line with modern environmental regulations and laws so that the Stibnite mining area is restored to its previous condition, as discussed in the company's PRO. It is worth noting that a project of this massive undertaking comes with a high price tag that would otherwise be left to taxpayers to fund. Midas Gold Idaho is precisely the right mix of good corporate citizen and needed private direct investment to turn the region around.

Given what's at stake for the state's, its residents', and local governments' best interests I ask that you approve the Alternative 2 outlined by the company and move forward with the draft Environmental Impact Statement. Idaho deserves the benefits we will see from a project of this caliber.