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Organization: House of Representatives, State of Idaho

Title: Representative, District 35

Comments: As a sixth generation Idahoan and the representative of its 35th Legislative district, I am always looking for opportunities that will benefit Idaho. After review of the U.S. Forest Service draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project I would like to voice my support for the proper permitting of this unique opportunity. This project will grow Idaho's economy and help restore the environment and habitat around the historic Stibnite mining district that has seen years of neglect.

The Stibnite Gold Project will make substantial contributions to Idaho's economy. Midas has committed to hiring and purchasing locally whenever viable. During the expected 20-year life span of the project, Midas has projected that Stibnite gold will hire more than 1,000 employees and invest a total of \$1 billion into the state. During the operations stage of the project Midas plans to hire more than 500 employees within state, and nearly 200 of those workers will come from Valley and Adams Counties.

Midas Gold also plans to restore the local habitat and fix the environmental problems left by previous years of unregulated mining. Through their proposed plans, Midas Gold will set aside necessary funds to perform a robust reclamation effort to help remedy blocked fish passages in the Salmon River and improve water quality before they even begin mining. Midas Gold will continue to improve the region's environmental legacy by using modern and sustainable mining practices; ensuring that the site and the surrounding landscape is left in good condition. Idaho stands to gain a great deal from this project both economically and environmentally.

After careful consideration, I strongly recommend you approve Alternative 2 included in the draft EIS so that The Stibnite Gold Project may proceed in a responsible and timely fashion.