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Organization: House of Representatives, State of Idaho

Title:

Comments: As an Idaho state representative, I write to express my support for Midas Gold Idaho's proposed Stibnite Gold Project following the U.S. Forest Service's release of its draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As the member representing Donnelly, a community close to the site of the proposed project, I encourage you to adopt Alternative 2.

The Stibnite Gold Project will be a \$1 billion dollar investment in Idaho and will bring hundreds of well-paying jobs to the state's rural communities. The investment will provide a huge opportunity for many families in my district and across the state. Presently, the job opportunities in Donnelly center on the leisure and hospitality industries. On average, the jobs the Stibnite Gold Project will bring in will be four times the average wages of these leisure and hospitality positions - that's more than \$80,000. The advantage of this project is the employees and incomes it will generate get to stay in Idaho.

Additionally, as a board member on the Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands, I am pleased with the approach the company has laid out to address the environmental degradation at Stibnite. Midas Gold Idaho is committed to repairing the nearly 100 years' worth of erosion, sedimentation, and devastation to fish habitats and spawning grounds and has outlined a robust and highly detailed reclamation plan. Restoring the environment in this region is a costly endeavor, one the government is unlikely to ever do alone. The initiative shown by Midas Gold Idaho to address this issue is another compelling reason to approve the project.

In February 2018, the Idaho House of Representatives and Senate passed, with overwhelming support, a joint memorial asserting that Idaho supports actions by the U.S. Forest Service in partnership with other state agencies to move forward to approve the Stibnite Gold Project in a timely and cost-effective manner. As lead sponsor of this joint memorial, I feel that this project is an exceptional opportunity to clean up years of environmental degradation and to provide significant economic contributions to our state. I have attached HJM 10 to this letter for your review.

After careful consideration of the draft EIS, I would like to urge the U.S. Forest Service to adopt the Alternative 2 outlined by Midas Gold Idaho and I appreciate the U.S. Forest Service's commitment to Idaho demonstrated through its rigorous examination of the project.

ATTACHMENT: Statement of Purpose RS25999 This Joint Memorial encourages the Trump Administration, including the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Secretary of the United States Department of Interior, and the administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency and Idaho's Congressional Delegation, to direct resources and personnel necessary to move forward with permitting the Stibnite Gold Project in a timely and cost-effective manner.