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Organization: Idaho State Senate

Title: Idaho State Senator, District 10

Comments: I am writing to voice my support for the proposed Midas Gold Idaho Stibnite Gold Project currently under public consideration. As the Chairman of Idaho Senate Local Government & Taxation Committee, the wellbeing of Idahoans and our land is extremely important to me.

Overall, I believe this project will improve years of environmental degradation left from legacy mining in Stibnite and provide significant economic benefits that Idaho cannot afford to pass up. I want to thank the U.S. Forest Service for the work you have done to release this draft Environmental Impact Statement and believe we should do all we can to ensure this viable project moves forward in an efficient and timely manner.

Previous mining activity in this area occurred prior to proper regulatory requirements that would restore and preserve the land. As a result, major environmental problems remain at the site, including abandoned pits and tailings, blocked fish passage, deforestation, accelerated erosion, increased sedimentation in water ways, poor water quality and more. Midas Gold Idaho is committed to addressing all these problems and repairing the damage left behind at the site. In fact, the plans reviewed by the U.S. Forest Service contains an extensive reclamation plan that will put the land in a better condition than how they found it. I am encouraged by the transparency the company has demonstrated to date. It suggests a well-established and thoroughly researched approach that will actually help this site become healthy once more.

This project is a great example of private industry working to solve an environment crisis without the need to use millions of taxpayer dollars, which is why it is so important that Midas Gold Idaho is allowed to proceed with this project. The Stibnite Gold Project is a \$1 billion investment into Idaho that will restore the water quality, landscape, fisheries, and natural habitat of the area. In addition, this endeavor will generate more than \$150 million in state and local tax revenues plus more than \$180 million in income tax revenue that will benefit the communities that surround the site and our state as a whole.

Idaho needs to encourage this type of private investment in our state that generates jobs, revenue, and environmental sustainability. I strongly believe that the U.S. Forest Service should adopt Alternative 2 outlined by Midas Gold Idaho in their proposal.

Let's move this project and Idaho forward. Thank you for your considerations.