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Organization: Idaho State Senate

Title: Idaho State Senator, District 25

Comments: After reviewing the recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Stibnite Gold Project, I am writing to express my support and hope you will take my comments into consideration. This project is an opportunity to improve years of environmental degradation left in the region from legacy mining while bringing economic prosperity to Idaho. I have visited the site and believe this project will greatly improve the environment.

As Chairman of the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee, the economic benefit of the Stibnite Gold Project makes its approval an extremely high priority to me. This project will be a \$1 billion investment in Idaho, which will bring hundreds of jobs into the state and contribute significant local and state tax revenue. Idaho continues to rank among the lowest in the country for per capita income and wages. Midas Gold would employ between 500-1,000 employees during construction and upward of 200 employees during closure and reclamation.

An independent study was completed in 2017 and found that over the 20-year duration of the Stibnite Gold Project, an estimated \$150.9 million will be generated in state and local tax revenues. Additionally, the total income tax payments over this period from employees of the project are estimated to reach approximately \$448.2 million. Schools, law enforcement, and local governments would see approximately \$300,000 annually from property taxes alone.

These economic impacts are vital to the future of our State, and why we need this project to continue. It is important that the U.S. Forest Service adopt Alternative 2 considered in the Draft EIS.

I look forward to this process moving along in a timely manner and seeing this project through to completion.