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Organization: State of Idaho, House of Representatives

Title: Representative, District 32 Seat B

Comments: As a first-term Representative for the 32nd district of Idaho, I am committed to ensuring my constituents every available opportunity for success. The U.S. Forest Service has released its draft Environmental Impact Statement for Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project and I am writing to express my support. After thorough research, I've come to understand the positive impact this project will have on all of our communities and encourage you to consider the following comments during the rest of your review.

The Stibnite Gold Project will bring hundreds of new job opportunities to Valley County. Not only will these jobs help stimulate the economy, Midas plans to adequately train these employees and pay them more than some of the state's leading industries. Training and experience will also help Idahoans build career paths that would have been unavailable prior to the project. These positions are stable, high paying jobs that will help stabilize Idaho's economy and attract new business ventures in our state. Idaho has consistently ranked near the bottom of the country in per capita income and wages, but the Stibnite Gold Project is an opportunity for Idaho to break the cycle.

An independent study on the potential economic effects of the project found that Idaho would benefit from over \$150 million in state and local tax revenues. This money can go back to our communities to help improve Idaho as a whole. The study also found that schools and local governments would collect about \$300K annually in property taxes. Investing in our future is important and that begins with ensuring our children receive a proper education.

Idaho's economy and citizens have much to gain from Midas Gold Idaho's Gold Stibnite Project. I would like to ask the U.S. Forest Service to approve alternative 2 proposed by Midas Gold Idaho in their Plan of Restoration and Operations.