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Organization: House of Representatives, State of Idaho

Title:

Comments: As the Chair of the House Business Committee, I am writing to confirm my support for Midas Gold Idaho's proposed Stibnite Gold Project. This project will provide Idaho with an exceptional opportunity to revitalize an ecologically besieged site and bring serious economic benefits to our state's rural communities. Moreover, the proposed project prioritizes and invests in the people of Idaho through focused employment and training initiatives.

The community I represent, Ponderay, has a city motto: "Little City with the Big Future". In many ways, I see the state of Idaho in the same light. As a father of seven, I must advocate for an Idaho that can offer robust educational and economic opportunities - an absolute necessity for cultivating and retaining homegrown talent. With the Stibnite Gold Project, we have a unique opportunity to realize that big future for all Idahoans.

Midas Gold's commitment to hiring local means that they will employ and support training opportunities for Idahoans throughout the life of the project by working directly with schools, community colleges, and the Idaho Department of Labor. During construction alone, the company plans to hire up to 1,000 people and have an annual payroll of \$34 million. In all, Midas Gold Idaho plans to invest more than \$1 billion in Idaho with the Stibnite Gold Project.

Midas Gold has also demonstrated that they will be excellent stewards of our lands by placing a high priority on restoration and mitigation of damages created by previous projects. The Payette National Forest and surrounding communities finally have a solution thanks to the willingness of Midas Gold to dedicate more than 5 years of research and planning to tackle problems not of their own creation. The proposed plan offered up to the U.S. Forest Service is the best option for the environment and the community while remaining economically feasible. I applaud the company's steadfast efforts to improve and restore the natural beauty that is Stibnite, Idaho.

A thorough examination of the Stibnite Gold Project's impact on Idaho is of paramount importance. After reviewing the draft environmental impact statement in full, I urge the U.S. Forest Service to choose Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative and to move this project forward. This project is a win-win for all who truly care about the environment and the people of Valley County.