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First name: Brent
Last name: Hill
Organization: Idaho State Senate
Title:
Comments: September 14, 2020

U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor 500 North Mission Street

McCall, ID 83638

Dear Ms. Jackson,

I would like to lend my voice in support of the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho. As President Pro Tempore of the Idaho State Senate I support private business ventures that help bring economic opportunities into our communities. But as in the case of the Stibnite Gold Project, we will also be welcoming a project that looks to restore a crucial piece of Idaho's environment. I hope you will consider my comments in favor of Midas Gold Idaho's proposed project under consideration in the U.S. Forest Service's draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Stibnite mining district has a storied history that includes years of mining before modern regulatory and reclamation processes were implemented to guarantee environmental stewardship. Midas Gold Idaho has proposed a plan to expand mining in the area but only under the most rigorous environmental standards as evidenced by their Plan of Restoration and Operations submitted to the U.S. Forest Service. With many abandoned pits, erosion, blocked fish passages and other flaws, the region can and will absolutely benefit from the millions of dollars in reclamation investment the company intends to devote. It is critical to note that state funding needed to complete a project of this scale would simply break the state' s budget. Capital investment is vital and Midas has guaranteed it.

Beyond the environmental benefits, the Stibnite Gold Project will bring tremendous economic activity to the area. Estimates from Highland Economics, an independent firm that studied the economic impact of the proposed project, cite a $1 billion investment in the state accompanied by as many as 1,000 jobs during construction with wages potentially exceeding $60,000 a year. Idaho suffers from some of the lowest per capita incomes in the nation and this project could change that. Second, an investment of this size will provide our public works with money to improve our communities. Estimates expect tax revenues to surpass $150 million over the project' s lifespan. This means more tax revenues for schools, police and local governments.

The benefits of Midas' proposed plan are obvious. I kindly ask that you fully consider my comments in support of Alternative 2 detailed in the draft Environmental Impact Statement and move this project forward.

Sincerely,

//s

Brent Hill