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Organization:

Title:

Comments: August 25, 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 want to thank the U.S. Forest Service for the rigorous analysis of the Midas Gold Stibnite Gold Project in the recently released draft Environmental Impact Statement. As the Senator from Idaho's 4th District, I support the Stibnite Gold Project. It is my goal to work hard every day to represent North Idaho values, and work for the economic and environmental prosperity of this amazing state and that is exactly what this project will provide.

Idaho continues to rank among the lowest in the country in per capita income and wages. The Midas Gold project would work to correct this disparity by employing upward of 1,000 people during construction. These jobs will pay more than four times the average wages in the leisure and hospitality industries common in Valley County, which equates to more than \$80,000 a year. Midas Gold has committed to purchasing supplies locally, and hiring and training local residents to help complete this project. This means that this project will support training opportunities for Idahoans throughout the duration of the project by working directly with schools, community colleges, and the Idaho Department of Labor.

Residents will receive quality training for high paying jobs that will benefit them long after the mine is closed and the site is restored to pristine beauty. Additionally, our community will receive massive benefits from the project. The wages earned from employment on this project will generate more than

\$448 million in local income tax revenue over the duration of the project. Schools, law enforcement, and local governments would see \$300,000 annually from property taxes.

Idahoans need this type of private investment in our environment and in our economy. That is why I hope the U.S. Forest Service will adopt Alternative 2 laid out in the proposal presented by Midas Gold and move this project forward in an efficient and timely manner.

Sincerely,

//s Senator Mary Souza

Legislative District 4