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First name: Senator Chuck

Last name: Winder

Organization: Idaho State Senate

Title: Majority Leader

Comments: U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor 500

North Mission Street

McCall, ID 83638 October 6, 2020

Dear Ms. Jackson,

As a public official, I understand the importance of revitalization and growth opportunities for our remote rural communities. That is one of many reasons I support Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. After reviewing the draft Environmental Impact Statement and the company's Plan of Restoration and Operation (PRO) it is clear this project is environmentally and economically crucial for Idaho's future.

The Stibnite Gold Project is a unique opportunity to take an area damaged by a century of mining. The Project will improve wildlife habitat, fish habitat, and water quality. When miners began projects in this region, there were limited environmental regulations and protections to ensure restoration. Today, Midas Gold Idaho has put forth a proposal that uses modern, state of the art machinery and practices to restore and revitalize this area, improving the environment and promoting a healthy ecosystem in the region for generations of Idahoans to come.

Additionally, this project will provide significant growth in the areas of employment and tax revenues. The Stibnite project will generate upward of 1,000 jobs during construction and up to 200 jobs during closure and restoration. During a 20-year period the Stibnite Gold Project will generate more than \$150 million in state and local tax revenues. Midas Gold Idaho has even gone so far as to provide housing for their employees - making it convenient for local Idaho residents to commute to the project site. These tax revenues will help finance Idaho schools thus helping our teachers, students and parents.

Restoring the Stibnite Gold site will bring valuable economic growth and opportunity to our state. This is why, it is absolutely necessary the review process move along quickly. I urge you to accept Alternative 2 as proposed by Midas Gold in their initial proposal. Your approval of this reclamation project will help our community and state prosper.