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First name: Senator Dave

Last name: Lent

Organization: Idaho State Senate

Title: District 33

Comments: My experience for the last forty years in the nuclear industry has taught me something about corporate citizenship and accountability. The Stibnite Gold Project has impressed me with their emphasis on environmental stewardship and focus on safety. Typically, I have found that corporations who understand the long-term importance of these issues are more successful than those who focus on short term profits. As an individual who has managed several multimillion[shy] dollar high hazard projects, I am writing to express my support for this project and encourage its timely movement through the approval process.

The Stibnite Gold Project is an incredible opportunity to clean up many years of previous environmental degradation left from prior mining projects. There are many environmental legacies that remain to this day, including compromised fish habitats, deforestation, abandoned pits, and accelerated erosion. Midas Gold is committed to cleaning up these legacies completely through private investment at no cost to the taxpayer. Their plan would not only preserve existing wildlife and environment but leave it better than they found it. Without this private investment, repairs would be an incredibly costly venture for our state and its taxpayers.

In addition to these environmental benefits, Midas Gold would generate considerable amounts of revenue and tax benefits in the Stibnite Mining District and our state. An independent economics firm, Highland Economics, conducted an analysis of the project, finding that over the 20-year duration of the project, Midas Gold Idaho would generate \$150.9 million in state and local tax revenues. Impacts from local job creation are also considerable, estimated at over \$60 million through construction, operations, and reclamation.

As an Idaho State Senator for District 33, I would request the U.S. Forest Service accept Alternative 2 proposed by Midas Gold Idaho in their proposal.