



## House of Representatives State of Idaho

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,

As an Idaho state Representative and a member of the state House Health & Welfare Committee, I have dedicated my career as a public servant to ensuring the wellbeing of all Idahoans. Upon reviewing the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project, I write today to voice my support for the proposal. I am confident that the project will increase the wellbeing of our environmental and economy securing a healthier future for Idaho.

After nearly 100 years of mining in the Stibnite region, most during eras of lax or non-existent regulatory oversight, the environment is in need of repair. Abandoned pits have led to unhealthy levels of metals in surface and ground waters and vital fish populations are unable to properly migrate upstream to the Salmon River. Despite the concerns present in the region, Midas Gold Idaho is the only private entity with a specific plan that will facilitate the environment's restoration and fix these problems; problems, I'd remind you that they didn't cause. Midas has submitted a Plan of Restoration and Operations (PRO) that will enable the clean up the areas surrounding the mining site, removing toxic chemicals and keeping our land healthy - essential projects for the future health of our communities.

In addition to the environmental restoration, Midas will provide hundreds of high paying jobs and contribute millions annually in local and state tax revenue, stimulating economic growth along the way.

As a Representative and a father of five, I have a vested interest in ensuring that we fast-track only good, viable projects. The Stibnite Gold Project is one of those opportunities. Therefore, I urge the U.S. Forest Service to adopt Alternative 2 presented by Midas Gold and move forward with this important project.

Sincerely,

Bryan Zollinger  
Idaho State Representative  
District 33, Seat B