

Maegan Northup

**U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest
ATTN: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor
500 North Mission Street
McCall, ID 83638**

September 11, 2020

Dear Ms. Jackson:

My name is Maegan Northup, a student at BSU seeking a degree in Geology. I am writing to support the Stibnite Gold Project and Midas Gold's efforts to ethically and safely mine for gold and antimony, as well as any ancillary minerals associated with the project. I consider myself to be an avid conservationist and I recreate in and around the areas that may be impacted by the Stibnite Gold Project. Although I am currently a student from Alabama enrolled at BSU, my grandparents are full-time residents in Valley County and I have come to identify Valley County as an additional residence. My grandparents served as my guardian when my parents were deployed on military deployments and I lived in Donnelly throughout my childhood.

To begin, I strongly support Alternative 2. I believe it is the lowest overall risk, impacts the environment the least, and identifies the best transportation alternative that has no major fish bearing waterways impact. I strongly believe that Alternative 5 is not optimal because it will not have the environmental restoration I would expect and contains other flaws such as failure to identify significant and meaningful jobs.

I support Midas Gold's efforts for these reasons:

- **Conservational/Environmental Issues:**
 - The current mess at Stibnite is shameful. Other than Midas Gold's efforts, nothing has been done, nor do I believe will be done, to clean up the mess. We must have this project to continue Midas' endeavors.
 - The Stibnite Gold Project has the potential to not only clean up the mess but to enhance water quality. Even *The Star News* in their September 3, 2020 edition cited a potential for enhanced water.
- **Economic Issues:**
 - The Stibnite Gold Project will provide up to 1,000 jobs throughout the life of the project. The average salary will be approximately \$80,000 per year. This well exceeds the area's average salary. And, these jobs will provide benefits that the average Valley County employee does not receive.

- Midas Gold will pay \$329 million in federal corporate income taxes and \$86 million in state corporate income and mine license taxes. Again, this benefits Valley County, our State, and the Nation.
- In addition to Midas jobs, there will be other jobs created. Additional positions such as CPAs, lawyers, child care, and other service jobs such as mechanics, painters and many more will become available.
- Community Issues:
 - Midas has been a reliable, ethical, and fair partner with our communities. Some will indicate they are buying our loyalty. However, just because Midas cares about our community does not mean or even imply that there are nefarious or questionable motives.
 - The establishment and evenhanded approach of the community Stibnite Advisory Council and Stibnite Foundation are models for future businesses to aspire toward when creating relationships with communities.
- National Security Issues:
 - The mining of antimony is a critical commodity for national security. Currently five countries mine almost 96% of all antimony: China (76.9%), Russia (6.9%), Tajikistan (6.2%), Bolivia (3.1%), and Australia (2.7%). Failure to create and protect our supply chain is unconscionable.
 - Antimony is a vital material for the information technology, medical, and aerospace industries. The mining of antimony on our soil is critical to enhancing our nation security.
 - The Stibnite Gold Project would be the only source of primary antimony production in the country.
- Bonding and Restoring the Site:
 - A major fear appears to be whether Midas will live up to its obligations to restore the site. Two points are critical here. First, current law states they must be bonded – they are and will be. Second, periodically the project must undergo reevaluation to ensure the bonding is sufficient to provide adequate protections – IT IS THE LAW and Midas supports the law and will abide by the law.

For these reasons and many more, I wholeheartedly support the Stibnite Midas Gold Project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maegan Northup". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maegan Northup of Donnelly and BSU (Boise)