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Comments: I am presenting this letter on behalf of the small business community ofidaho. I am an Economic Advisor and Geologist for the natural resource sector based in Boise, Idaho. My firm has contributed to the economy by unlocking vast amounts of untapped wealth in the United States through mineral exploration. I would like to briefly offer some reason for moving the historic Stibnite Au-Ag-Sb mine back into production.

The economic future ofidaho is bright. However, producing metal and minerals are fundamental to building a diverse economy and generating an enormous trickledown in prosperity at local, state, and federal levels. Idaho has seen a drastic decline in mineral exploration and mining for over 30 years, putting our state behind in economic value, scientific knowledge, depleted state and federal agencies, and creating the poorest school system in our country. In the last three years Idaho has witnessed vast investment and renewal of interest for precious metals and mining. Why? What has changed?

The Gem State is one of the most prospective regions in the world for a variety of precious metals e.g. gold, antimony, cobalt, silver, copper, molybdenum, zinc, lead, thorium, tungsten, lithium etc., the list goes on. Our 21 st century economy demands these metals. Idaho's primary leading mineral commodity, by value, is phosphate for fertilizer followed by sand and gravel. The precious metal market in Idaho has been decimated by outside influences such as special interest groups, political lobbyists, and environmentalists, causing industry to leave our rural communities and locking the gate behind them.

Rural Idahoans were once filled with hope and prosperity before this decline in mining potential. We built schools, communities, and ski resorts around mining towns. Now, we see out of state recreationists demanding Idaho have an economy based around their vacation with no interest in our school system, job opportunity, and economic sovereignty.

In short, the economic demand from the local community has changed, with Midas Gold leading the way for 10 years investing over $60 million dollars into permitting and study. The transparency and ethical standard of Midas Gold can be displayed by merely their ability to finance a once uneconomic mine site in a difficult permitting environment among the most skeptical industry in the world, the gold market. The entire mining industry has its eye on Idaho right now with Midas having laid the path toward permitting a high-quality once in a life-time project. Idaho would be proud to have Midas Gold operate the Stibnite mine, may it be no one else!