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Comments: I am writing in support of Midas Gold's Stibnite project. My bona fides include mining experience starting with Hecla Mining Co., Bunker Hill Mining Co., Day Mines, Inc., Sunshine Mining Co., and Coeur d'Alene Mines Corp., plus four years as Executive Director of the Nevada Mining Association.

By now you will be in possession of reams of documentation on the positives of the project, so let me offer thoughts maybe not so obvious. The mine plan presents environmental advantages not usually found in such proposals. The restoration of salmon and bull trout historic trails and habitat is creatively beneficial. The proposed repair of damage from prior mining at the applicant's expense will benefit taxpayers as will the economic benefits of the 500 well-paying jobs.

The public perception problems sometimes associated with cyanide leaching have, through stringent regulation, been recognized and mitigated. What is often lost in those arguments is that the cyanide contains gold, and no responsible miner is going to let money seep back into the ground. There is ample documentation and experience that a project such as this can safely and effectively embrace and comply with your requirements.

Antimony is among an array of mined materials such as rare earths that the U. S. has caused to move offshore to the detriment of national defense concerns. Sunshine Mining Company in Kellogg, Idaho, had a plant to capture the antimony byproduct of its silver operation. It safely and successfully processed and shipped antimony until the mine closed, demonstrating that mining and processing can be done safely.

In summary, the Stibnite Gold Project merits your favorable consideration not only for its economic values but for its important national defense purposes. Our country needs the gold and antimony.