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First name: April

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Ms. Jackson,

I'm thankful to have this opportunity to encourage the U.S. Forest Service to help bring Midas Gold Idaho's vital Stibnite Gold Project to life. This project will have positive impacts on Idaho's economy, our national security, and the safety of workers as well as the environment.

Right now, China is the number-one source of antimony for the United States as there is currently no domestic mining production of the valuable mineral according to the U.S. government. However, demand for the resource is growing. It is vitally important that America be able to produce antimony on its own, so we don't have to count on foreign sources to access a steady supply-particularly since the Department of Defense has predicted shortfalls of the mineral in the coming years.

Furthermore, this project will spur economic activity that is sorely lacking in rural Idaho communities. Midas has made a commitment to hire, contract with, and purchase supplies and services from Idaho businesses. Already, the company has spent more than \$69 million here in Idaho doing just that. Moving forward, the Stibnite Gold Project will be a vital source of jobs-both during the construction phase as well as throughout the lifecycle of the project. It is very important to me that our future generations have the opportunity to have the option for a well paying job, an opportunity to stay in Idaho and raise their families with a great quality of life.

According to estimates by the company, construction could directly employ up to 700 Idahoans, providing annual payroll of up to \$49 million. Up to another 600 jobs would be supported during operations, totaling an annual payroll of up to \$51 million. Jobs during operations would cover everything from management and administrative positions to equipment operators and laborers to mechanics, engineers, and environmental experts. We're talking real jobs for hardworking Idahoans, which will only help further strengthen local economies. Midas is very clearly invested in Idaho, our local communities and providing opportunities through STEM and career goal opportunities.

For the benefits this project will provide to local businesses and economies as well as our entire nation, I ask that the U.S. Forest Service move forward with Alternative 2 as presented by Midas in its modified Plan of Restoration and Operations.

Sincerely,

April Huffman