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Organization: Valley County Republican Central Committee
Title: Chairman
Comments: I write today on behalf of the Valley County Republican Central Committee (VCRCC). The VCRCC is the local Valley County entity representing the Idaho Republican Party and Republicans residing in Valley County.

Republicans in Valley County, including VCRCC members, are a diverse group and we are strong supporters of natural resource conservation; not preservation but conservation that makes prudent, responsible and safe use of our natural resources to support society. We have studied the DEIS and the efforts of Midas Gold to correct the misdeeds of the past. We trust Midas Gold will take their duties and responsibilities seriously and will mine responsibly in Valley County. This is evident because Midas is already cleaning up the Stibnite area. They are the only entity doing this clean up - not even the federal government is cleaning up the past damage to the ecology of Stibnite and the downstream areas. Our members understand mining and the implications thereof.

We support Alternative 2 as the most practical approach and one that will be best for the communities impacted by the Stibnite Gold Project. Alternative 2 improves on Alternative 1, as it is an updated and modified plan. Alternative 3 places the Tailings Storage Facility in reach of the East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River. Alternative 4 contains significant transportation and road issues and Alternative 5 is to do nothing leaving the area in the present condition. We believe Alternative 5 is not an option! In addition to supporting Alternative 2, we recognize there are many reasons to support the Stibnite Gold Project but we are highlighting two points that are of special importance.

Conservation Reasons

As stated previously, Midas Gold is already improving and cleaning up the disastrous conditions that currently exist at Stibnite. Midas Gold's restoration efforts will and already are, enhancing the quality of water and the improvement of other areas will minimize or mitigate the impact of mining. The placement and treatment of tailings is a point that will help to restore the Stibnite area as mining progresses. The result of this action is further enhancement of the water quality and the reduction of arsenic toxicity. This effort, along with other Midas Gold's "good practice processes" will improve water quality. Other enhancements, such as the salmon tunnel, will create good passage for the fish and provide our South Fork Salmon with spawning beds. Finally, the new and improved mining laws that Midas Gold readily supports, calls for periodic bonding adjustments to insure dollars and other resources are always available to restore the area regardless of Midas Gold's financial standing.

Economic Reasons

The economic improvements that the Midas Gold operation will help Valley County residents receive more than a living wage. Currently the average income for Valley County residents is approximately $37,000 per annum. It is projected that Midas Gold will bring over 1,000 jobs throughout the life of the project. The trickle-down effect may include another 1,000 jobs. The importance of Midas' 1,000 jobs is huge because they will be good paying jobs providing salaries and benefits that could exceed $80,000 per year. Additionally, the impact to our county tax base will further help our communities.

In closing, we recognize Midas Gold as a partner that has the best interests of Valley County in mind. Midas has always acted in an ethical manner. We believe Midas' establishment of the Stibnite Advisory Council and the Stibnite Foundation as bedrock institutions that reflect their caring and progressive attitudes within our communities.

The membership of the Valley County Republican Central Committee, and we believe the majority of Republicans in Valley County that we represent, strongly support Alternative 2 of the Stibnite Gold Project.