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Organization: House of Representatives, State of Idaho
Title: District 34, Seat A
Comments: As a fifth-generation resident, and now as state representative, of Idaho's Legislative District 34, I am dedicated to improving the quality of education and creating a business-friendly environment in our state. Following the U.S. Forest Service release of its draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding the proposed Stibnite Gold Project by Midas Gold Idaho, I write to you to express my support. This project is an exceptional investment in Idaho, one that would generate new revenue and yield a myriad of educational and professional opportunities for Idahoans.As a member of the Revenue & Taxation Committee, I am encouraged by investment proposals that wil yield significant economic impacts in our state while also demonstrating measurable outcomes. An independent study by Highland Economics on the economic impacts of the project found that, during construction, the direct impact on the local economy would be over $18 million a year in taxes, wages and ancillary benefits. In addition, schools, law enforcement, and local governments would see $300,000 annually from property taxes.I appreciate the U.S. Forest Service's leadership in its drafting of the EIS. However, given that this project is, as proposed, the type of long-term economic and community investment that our state desperately needs, I would like to urge the agency to endorse Alternative 2 as their preferred alternative.