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First name: Allison
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Organization: Donnelly Area Chamber of Commerce
Title: Secretary
Comments: The Greater Donnelly Area Chamber of Commerce and its membership want you to know that we support the Stibnite Gold Project and Midas Gold's efforts to restore the old Stibnite mining area and to mine gold and antimony. We want you to lnow we support Alternative 2.The Chamber's mission statement and bylaws state:We are a group of like-minded businesses and individuals linked together to foster the growth of commerce in the Greater Donnelly Area while promoting all aspects of our area. Our target audience includes: businesses; [middot] recreation and resort endeavors; civic, cultural, educational, and spiritual institutions; and individuals that collectively desire to improve the economies of the area while achieving measured and sustained growth and progress.This mission statement and our bylaws indicate we are about managed growth and a strong business culture across the spectrum of what this valley and the ecology are about. Everything about the Stibnite Gold Project aligns perfectly with our organization and our organizational members.We are a small chamber of commerce and appreciate Midas Gold's membership and active participation in all elements of our community, businesses, and environment. We believe Midas' approach to the Stibnite Gold Project is a standard for other large businesses to use as they communicate with their community. Of special note, we find the Stibnite Advisory Council a resource that suits our needs. Simply stated, Midas Gold has been a valued partner and we look forward to a long and prosperous relationship.We support 'Alternative 2' as the most practical approach and one that will be best for Donnelly and the other communities impacted by the Stibnite Gold Project. Alternative 2 basically improves on Alternative 1 - it is an updated and modified plan. Alternative 3 places the Tailings Storage Facility in reach of the East Fork South Fork Salmon River, Alternative 4, contains significant transportation and road issues, and Alternative 5 is to do nothing, leaving the area the mess that it is in today.As with many of the respondents to the DEIS, we support the Stibnite Gold Project for multiple reasons but want to focus on two major points - the ecological considerations and the economy. We believe that Midas Gold's efforts to improve and begin cleaning up the mess that exists at Stibnite now is important to highlight. Its restoration efforts will enhance the quality of water and improve the area from a conservational perspective.Our two primary reasons for supporting the Stibnite Gold Project are based on their commitment to clean up the area and the economy, and are stated below:Environmental: Alternative 2 identifies significant water enhancements. An important point is that Alternative 2 has specific actions that will improve the overall ecological standing and that have a trickle-down effect that will improve water quality, limit or mitigate the potential for toxicants, and mitigations to tailings that impact water. Also, the fish tunnel - although not a water quality issue - is an enhancement that will be beneficial for the South Fork Salmon spawning bed; passage issues will be greatly improved and restore salmon population. It is also important to mention that the current bonding procedures will ensure that Midas, regardless of its financial standing, will ensure the area is left in an acceptable condition.Economic: Beyond the conservational enhancement, the economic improvements that Midas Gold will make available will be significantly important to Valley County. It is projected that Midas Gold will bring over 1,000 jobs throughout tl1e life of the project. The trickle-down effect may include another 1,000 jobs. The importance of the Midas 1,000 jobs is huge. These will be well paying jobs providing salaries and benefits that will exceed $80,000 per year. Midas is committing to conduct training that will help ensure the jobs will be available to local residents. Additionally, the impact to our tax base will further help our communities.Both the environmental improvements and the enhanced economic opportunities are issues the members of the Donnelly Chamber have wanted a long time. The leadership and members of the Donnelly Chamber of Commerce strongly support the Stibnite Gold Project for the reasons stated and many other reasons. We ask you to approve the Stibnite Gold Project as we believe this project has the best interest of our organization and other interested parties.