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First name: Saul

Last name: Anuzis

Organization: 60 Plus Association

Title:

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To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing today on behalf of the 60 Plus Association to urge approval of the Stibnite Gold Project. As an organization committed to cultivating a free market policy landscape that supports solutions to issues facing seniors, we believe the application currently before the U.S. Forest Service will strengthen our nation's natural resource supply chain and reduce our concerning dependence on foreign adversaries for critical minerals. The jobs and revenue created by the project are ancillary benefits, but are equally deserving of consideration as the permitting process moves forward.

President Trump's White House issued an Executive Order in September calling attention to the threat posed to our national security by our dependence on critical minerals from foreign adversaries. The Order references the shocking fact that of our nation's 35 most strategically vital minerals, as determined by the U.S. Department of the Interior, we depend on foreign imports for more than a majority of the total U.S. demand in 31 cases. Even more striking, we have no domestic production at all for 14 of the minerals on the federal government's list.

As articulated in the Executive Order, we now depend on China for roughly 80 percent of our rare earth elements, and are beholden to China for the vast majority of our supply of other critical minerals as well. One such critical mineral is antimony. And even though we use antimony in countless national security applications, we produce none of it here at home.

Our failure to produce antimony domestically isn't due to a lack of recoverable resources or technical know-how. While China does have most of the world's antimony, we have enough to meet a considerable portion of our demand - we just have to commit to responsibly and safely mining it!

The Stibnite Mining Project would do just that. If approved by the U.S. Forest Service, the Midas Gold project would become our only active source of domestically mined antimony. It is hugely important that we capitalize on this opportunity to address the concerns outlined in the Administration's Executive Order - not because it's what President Trump wants, but because it's what our nation so clearly needs to remain safe and competitive on an increasingly harrowing global landscape.

We understand that the Forest Service and other government bodies have crucial work to do in measuring the worthiness of a project of this scale. And we believe that, when considering the economic and environmental impacts alongside the clear national security case, the Stibnite Gold Project continues to meet any reasonable thresholds for approval.

Economically, the project will bring roughly \$1 billion in new investment to the state of Idaho along with hundreds of jobs. The investment will also bring tax revenue, and that revenue in turn will fund improvements in services across the communities impacted by the project. In trying economic times, benefits like these need to be capitalized upon decisively.

From an environmental standpoint, the company's documentation - and the perspectives from across the community - seem to point decisively to real benefits and measurable progress in addressing longstanding concerns with the land, water, and geological stability of the mining site.

We have an opportunity to directly confront a significant challenge facing our nation by producing critical minerals domestically. Doing so will strengthen our national security and grow our economy. We urge the Forest Service to move quickly to approve Midas Gold's application and help the United States take decisive action in safeguarding our future.

Thank you,

Saulius "Saul" Anuzis
President
James L. Martin
Founder/Chairman