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To Whom it May Concern:

Throughout our organization's history, 60 Plus has stressed the importance of doing all we can, as a nation, to capitalize on our own resources rather than rely on those imported from overseas. While we are aware and supportive of today's globally interdependent trade landscape, we also believe strongly that opportunities to responsibly strengthen our supply chain domestically should be seized enthusiastically when they arise.

I write today to assert that the Stibnite Gold Project, proposed for the Stibnite Mining District in Central Idaho, represents just such an opportunity. It is my hope that the U.S. Forest Service and other key regulatory and community stakeholders will recognize the importance of this project to the United States' mineral supply chain and, in turn, move efficiently toward approval of Midas Gold's application.

Domestic production of resources like gold, silver, and in the case of this project - a critical mineral called antimony - strengthens the American economy by creating jobs, sparking private investment, and generating local, state, and federal tax revenue. But our support for this project reaches beyond economic benefits.

The Stibnite Gold Project, if approved, would create immediate and significant progress in response to an Executive Order issued by the White House focused on the urgent importance of addressing vulnerability in the nation's critical mineral supply chain. The order states that "a strong America cannot be dependent on imports from foreign adversaries for the critical minerals that are increasingly necessary to maintain our economic and military strength in the 21st century." We agree strongly with this statement and share the concern.

The Order also references the U.S. Geological Survey's list of which minerals carry the greatest strategic importance to our nation. Near the top of this list of 35 mineral commodities is antimony - a material used extensively in both military and commercial applications as a hardening agent, flame retardant, component in advanced battery production, and more. But antimony, like 14 of the minerals on the list, is not currently produced in any meaningful capacity through domestic mining activities. Instead, we rely heavily on China - one of our most powerful and ascendant foreign adversaries - for the antimony we need to keep our military and economy strong.

This dependence represents an obvious vulnerability for the United States. As serious as this dependence is, though, it can be easily mitigated. Midas Gold's project would bring millions of pounds of domestically mined antimony to market. In doing so, it would help us assert greater control over our critical mineral supply chain, reducing China's leverage over our national security and boosting our economy in the process.

If approved, private investment in the Stibnite Gold Project would grow to more than \$1 billion. The project would create and sustain hundreds of good-paying jobs in Central Idaho and would strengthen surrounding communities through property tax revenue, vendor partnerships, purchases, and other indirect investment.

We also recognize that the cares and concerns of the communities closest to the project must be accommodated prior to approval of a project such as this - especially when it comes to environmental impact. The extent to which this

project will invest in and pursue positive environmental and ecological outcomes distinguishes it from other large-

scale mining operations.

As outlined in the company's application materials, Midas Gold has committed to truly leave the land and water better than they found it. This is because the Stibnite Mining District was long ago victim to heavy environmental harm amid mining activity close to a century ago. And while there has been no solution - public or private - this environmental harm to date due to the cost, Midas Gold will use the proceeds from their modern mining operation to fund extensive reclamation efforts.

For these reasons and more, our organization is pleased to add another voice of support for the Stibnite Gold Project. The need for responsible domestic mining is clear, and we hope that all engaged stakeholders will move swiftly to help this project move forward.

Thank you.