

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2020 7:43:45 PM

First name: Aubrey

Last name: Lyon

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ms. Jackson,

I am writing in support of the Midas Gold Idaho project in Stibnite, Idaho. I have had the good fortune to learn about this project over the past several years, and I believe its success will be a win-win for the environment and industry. I support the Stibnite Gold Project for three main reasons. First, the Stibnite Gold Project is proposed on a legacy mine site which desperately needs to be cleaned up. I am not aware of any other entity except for Midas, whether governmental or private, that has put together a realistic plan to clean up the site. And this site needs to be cleaned up. The past mining projects in Stibnite have left the site an environmental liability that is damaging Idaho's rivers and fish, and Midas alone has a practical plan to address it.

Second, I support mining at home in the U.S. versus outsourcing it to other countries with lax environmental laws, questionable labor practices, and governments that are fundamentally adverse to the democratic system. And that is the case with the Stibnite project, where one of the resources to be extracted is antimony, a critical mineral that is nearly exclusively extracted from mines in China and Russia. China and Russia do not have strong records on environmental protection or labor law, and I believe we can do it safer, cleaner, and more securely here in the U.S. Mining is necessary to sustain our modern lifestyle, and it is not a question of whether we have mines but where we have mines. I am a believer in the "buy local" philosophy and that philosophy applies to mining as much as it applies to groceries and other products.

Third, this project will bring good jobs to a part of Idaho that needs them. Valley County, which will essentially be the home of the project, ranks low on metrics that track education and income. Currently, Valley County's economy and housing market are largely subject to the whims of tourism and weekenders. The Stibnite Gold Project will bring hundreds of good paying jobs and year-round residents to Valley County that will lead to a more sustainable, healthy local economy.

I encourage the USFS to move the Stibnite Gold Project forward and permit Midas Gold Idaho's project as outlined in their Modified Plan of Restoration and Operations, alternative 2 in the DEIS. The USFS has provided meaningful time to submit comments and already extended the comment period once, and there is no reason for further delays.

Sincerely,

Aubrey Lyon