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First name: Ron

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: October 28, 2020

U.S. Forest Service, Payette National Forest
Attn: Linda Jackson, Payette Forest Supervisor
500 North Mission Street
McCall, ID 83638

Dear Ms. Jackson,

In the current era of economic uncertainty and even a reported national coin shortage, the importance of the precious metals markets is increasing. Idaho can and should be a leader in the mining and production from precious metals. Drawing on my experience as an Economics Professor, I support Midas Gold Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project. The project will bring increased prosperity to Idaho, making our state and its citizens stronger for it. Previously servicing in the Idaho House of Representatives, I have had the opportunity to learn about the company and the project. I hope that you will take my comments under review as you move toward the approval of this project.

Midas Gold's mining project will bring jobs to Idahoans and wealth to their families, as well as benefiting our state's economy. Midas is committed to hiring within Idaho and the surrounding states and has promised to work with local businesses whenever possible. The inflow of capital as a result of this project will help put Idahoans back to work and will support local businesses, keeping Idaho strong.

The Stibnite Mining Project, with the jobs and business it brings, as well as the increased tax revenues, will provide an estimated \$1 billion investment in Idaho. The local economic impacts from direct job creation are estimated at over \$18 million per year during construction, \$18 million per year during operations and close to \$4 million per year during reclamation. The investment Midas will make in Idaho will empower Idahoans to have a better future and on these grounds, we should encourage its approval.

I am certain that allowing Midas Gold's project to move forward is a step in the right direction and I would like to ask the U.S. Forest Service to approve alternative 2 proposed by Midas Gold Idaho.

Sincerely,

Ron Nate
Legislative District 34, Representative-Elect