Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/27/2020 6:00:00 AM
First name: Rebecca
Last name: Logan
Organization: The Alaska Support Industry Alliance
Title: CEO
Comments: The Alaska Support Industry Alliance is a nonprofit trade organization made up of more than 500 members providing more than 30,000 jobs related to the oil, gas and mining industries. Our mission is to advocate for safe, environmentally responsible development of oil, gas and mineral resources. While our focus is typically on oil, gas, and mining activities taking place within the state of Alaska, we are also deeply committed to the growth and stability of these sectors across the nation.For that reason, we are writing today to add our voice to those speaking out in support of the Stibnite Gold Project, and specifically Alternative 2 as outlined in the draft Environmental Impact Statement, a major mining project proposed for the state of Idaho. After careful review of this extensive document, it's clear that this document is thorough, complete, and exhaustively reviews all relevant alternatives for the project. This project isn't easy, and the Forest Service should be commended for making a review of the draft EIS as easy as possible on the public.The mining sector is deeply interconnected. And in today's volatile economic landscape, it is essential to our members and the companies we support that opportunities as promising as those entailed by the Stibnite Gold Project are capitalized upon in a safe and efficient manner. As with any well-constructed and efficiently run mining operation, the Stibnite Gold Project will spur economic opportunity, job creation, tax revenue, and heavy capital investment. According to data provided by Midas Gold, close to $90 million has already been invested in Idaho over the course of the development process to date. Upon permitting, that already lofty number would grow rapidly, with more than $1.1 billion in total capital investment expected in Idaho to build the project. Ongoing economic investments would benefit local communities through the approximately 20 years the project.This degree of investment will make waves in Idaho, contributing to the creation of hundreds of direct employment opportunities with Midas Gold. Beyond direct job impacts, companies like those that make up our membership- electricians and engineers, caterers and consultants, communications gurus, construction experts, computer whizzes, bankers, educators, and more - will also reap benefits in the form of support industry jobs. These "multiplier" benefits include everything from wages and payroll taxes to increased demand, adding to the benefit to Idaho's economy.While the benefits to companies like our members are unmistakable, the Stibnite Gold Project will also make an impact on our nation's critical mineral supply chain. The Stibnite Mining District is home to a massive deposit of antimony- one of the 35 minerals listed by the U.S. Geological Survey as critical to American national security and our overall economy. Antimony is used extensively in both commercial and military applications -from the smartphones so ubiquitous in modern society to the ammunition, ships, and weapons systems that keep our nation safe.Despite its critical importance, the United States does not mine any antimony domestically. If permitted, the Stibnite Gold Project will immediately strengthen our natural resource supply chain. This is of particular importance because of the fact that, in the absence of domestic production, the U.S. has instead turned to imported antimony. And since China controls 80% of the global supply of antimony, this means our supply chain is vulnerable, at best.We believe domestic resources -when they can be safely and responsibly extracted - should be favored over imports. We know that we can mine better here in the United States than anywhere in the world. Under the high standards placed on U.S. mining companies we can be assured that minerals produced here at home are extracted under the framework that aligns with our values as a country. The Stibnite Gold Project would enable us to maximize our domestic resources and strengthen our economic and strategic hand globally. With the trade deficit now at a 14-year high, any actions we can take to responsibly increase domestic production while decreasing foreign imports warrant close consideration and, in our opinion, strong support.Finally, the Alliance believes wholeheartedly that mining activities should be carried out with a clear focus on the distinct environmental impact of each project. In the case of the Stibnite Gold Project, mining activities will take responsible development to the next level. In addition to using modern mining techniques to minimize disruption from their own activities, Midas Gold will alsoproactively remedy existing ecological damage present at the Stibnite Mining District - relics of harmful mining activities from up to a century ago. The Midas plan calls for improvements to water quality and improved fish habitat, among other crucial environmental gains.In conclusion, we believe that the Stibnite Gold Project will deliver benefits to Idaho and the rest of the nation. As an organization focused on strengthening the

landscape upon which support industries operate, we happily share our support for this timely and beneficial mining project.