

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

This letter is to express my support of Midas Gold's Stibnite Gold Project. America needs this project to be permitted. I hope after reading my thoughts you will understand why my support for Midas Gold Idaho is so strong.

More than 10 million tons of spent ore and unlined tailings from previous mining are sitting, unlined in the valley near Meadow Creek at the site of the proposed Stibnite Gold Project. As water flows over this waste material, metals leach into the ground and surface. Therefore, we should not be surprised that the amount of arsenic and antimony in water near site vastly exceed levels that are considered acceptable for aquatic life standards. Midas Gold has a plan to mitigate the impacts of previous, unaffiliated mining projects to improve water quality and fish habitat. Among many other investments, Midas Gold would clean up the roughly 3 million tons of historical tailings and reprocess and properly store them in a state-of-the-art tailings facility. The company would also relocate the 7.5 million tons of used ore underneath the tailings facility liner system—permanently separating it from interacting with water. These efforts to remove legacy materials will improve water quality, a finding reflected in your own agency's draft environmental impact statement. According to chapter 4, removing legacy tailings and waste improves water quality in Meadow Creek Valley (4.12 103-104).

The comment period has been extended once already. It should not be delayed further. This only delays Idaho from recognizing the benefits of the project. The current USFS timeline provides plenty of time to review the DEIS and comment. After reviewing the document, I encourage you to permit alternative 2 of the project.

Thanks for your time,

Name: James Eldon McHatton