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Comments: There is an opportunity taking place in central Idaho to both lessen our nation[rsquo]s reliance on foreign sources of critical minerals while cleaning up a century[rsquo]s old brownfield site that is harming local groundwater.

Once operational, the Stibnite Gold Project will reduce the nation[rsquo]s reliance on places like China and Russia for the critical mineral antimony, which is an essential part of millions of products and vital for our national defense. Given antimony[rsquo]s importance for modern technology and for a secure and sustainable future, it is imperative that we explore all means of mining it here at home and the Stibnite Gold Project is the largest untapped source of this mineral in the country.

The historical Stibnite Mining District is also home to legacy waste that has plagued the local environment, the result of past mining efforts dating back to World War II. The polluted groundwater and tons of spent tailings left on the site have rendered it an environmental mess. Luckily, Midas Gold Idaho [ndash] the company behind the project [ndash] has a plan for not only restoring the site after mining but cleaning up the water quality and removing waste. In fact, your Draft Environmental Impact Statement outlined several conclusions that showed Midas Gold[rsquo]s solutions to clean up legacy waste and reclaim the area would improve the current status of the brownfield site.

Midas Gold[rsquo]s plan for the Stibnite Gold Project is balanced. It incorporates modern mining techniques that will produce critical minerals here at home while cleaning up the environment. And the reality is, if Midas isn[rsquo]t[rsquo] allowed to proceed with their plan, then taxpayers will eventually foot the bill.

Now is the time to bring mining home. Please approve alternative 2 and let this critical resource development project proceed.