

October 26, 2020

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

To Payette Forest Supervisor Linda Jackson:

As former Governor of the great State of Idaho, I welcome new economic development opportunities that create well-paying jobs for Idahoans while supporting local businesses and strengthening our communities. That is particularly true when the opportunity in question will also have the added benefit of restoring and protecting Idaho's natural resources and beauty for future generations.

If approved, Idaho's workers, communities, and its environment would all benefit from responsible redevelopment of the Stibnite Mining District as proposed by Midas Gold in Alternative 2 of their plan for the Stibnite Gold Project. I do not believe we can afford to let this opportunity pass us by, and I hope you will agree.

Idaho's Stibnite Mine Helped Win World War II

The Stibnite Mine helped our Nation win World War II. The Mine produced more tungsten and antimony than any other mine in the United States right through to the end of the Korean War. Tungsten and antimony were critical minerals for defense; tungsten was needed for strengthening steel and antimony for hardening lead. Production of these critical minerals at Stibnite was so critical to the war effort that on May 15, 1943, then-General Eisenhower sent the mine a telegram in 1943 thanking the workers for their significant contribution to success at a critical moment in the War. "There is victory for all of us in the achievement," General Eisenhower proudly proclaimed to the Idahoans at Stibnite.

The Process by Which Midas Gold has Informed Idaho's Public About the Stibnite Gold Project has Been Exemplary

During my time as Governor, I was fully informed about the process by which the Stibnite Gold Project was developing and it is my experience that Midas Gold has been extremely transparent throughout the planning process for the Stibnite Gold Project. The company has worked with local residents and businesses to provide information and has updated and refined their plans for development and restoration based on the feedback from local communities. Also, the Company has collaborated with regulators at the local, state, and federal levels to ensure full compliance with environmental regulations, and then some.

Midas Gold has also conducted hundreds of meetings and webinars to further inform the public about the details of the Project. Instead of simply standing still, Midas Gold has leaned in and been proactive to give Idahoans all the important information they need to assess the important elements of the Stibnite Gold Project.

From the very beginning, Midas Gold has been proactive in reaching out to Idaho's Tribes to seek their input on the plan and try to identify ways to work together for the benefit of the environment. Today, the company continues to welcome tribal partnership on water quality testing, monitoring and fisheries restoration to help maintain good stewardship, as well as connection and participation in improving these natural resources. Midas Gold believes listening to tribal perspectives, incorporating their traditional and scientific knowledge, and providing an ongoing seat at the table and systems of accountability will allow the company to create a healthier region for everyone.

The Stibnite Gold Project Will be Critical to Idaho's Future Economy and Protect Domestic Security on Critical Minerals

With regards to the economic impact this project would have on our State, Midas Gold has indicated it expects to directly employ hundreds of Idahoans during the construction phase as well as during full operations of the mine. These jobs are sorely needed and the salaries paid will give a tremendous boost to the local construction and skilled trades industry as well as a range of professions during operations—from management to electricians and engineers to geologists and environmental specialists.

Indirectly, the Stibnite Gold Project will support many hundreds more jobs spread out during all phases of the project. These jobs reach far into our communities as the development of the Stibnite Mining District would spur growth in the supply chain for goods and services used at the site, the transportation sector, as well as local services to support the increased needs local communities will see, from teachers to hospitality workers.

In addition to the jobs it would support, the project would also pump hundreds of millions of dollar into our economy annually. According to their plan, the Stibnite Gold Project will create roughly \$150 million in sales transactions in the regional economy over the lifetime of the project. Midas Gold would also pay hundreds of millions in federal corporate income taxes and \$86 million in state corporate income taxes, according to their projections. That revenue will help support Idaho communities and could even offset the need to increase taxes for many struggling rural communities.

For generations, Stibnite was known for its production of antimony, tungsten, and other valuable minerals that were critical to national security, particularly during the World War II era. Now, the need for antimony especially acute due to its many applications in the fields of defense and aerospace. Yet, as of last year, there was no domestic antimony production to speak of, and America is reliant on countries like China and Russia to access this critical mineral.