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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Stibnite Gold Project proposed by Midas Gold Idaho and the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) released by the U.S. Forest Service in August. I have extensive experience in investment management for commodities and basic industries and I currently sit on the board of Breaker Resources, a publicly traded Australian gold exploration company. As a result, I have seen many mining proposals in my experience, but the Stibnite Gold Project is truly a unique opportunity for the state of Idaho.

Importantly, the Stibnite Gold Project is a necessary opportunity to develop the only domestic supply of antimony. Antimony is a critical mineral considered vital to America's national security and economic well-being according to the U.S. Department of Defense, but this mineral is in short supply and the market is largely dominated by nations like China and Russia. A 2014 Pre-Feasibility Study identified that the Stibnite Gold Project can produce at least 100 million pounds of antimony. This project could supply approximately a quarter of the needed supply for antimony, a huge step in reducing dependence on imports.

The environmental challenges that have defined the historical Stibnite mining district for decades are troubling. However, through modern mining practices and economic investment, the Stibnite Gold Project can address and fix such mistakes. After reviewing the draft EIS, I urge you to move forward with Alternative 2 as offered by Midas Gold Idaho.

One of the biggest contributors to the poor water quality found at Stibnite is the 10.5 million tons of old, spent ore deposits and tailings materials from decades of loosely regulated mining. In their proposal, Midas Gold Idaho commits to removing, reusing, and reprocessing these tailings and waste rock, which your own draft environmental impact statement says will help the local ecosystem by reducing the high concentrations of metals that have leached into the water.

In addition to national security and environmental benefits, Idaho will no doubt benefit economically from the company's commitment to constructing and operating this open-pit mining operation. Indeed, the project would provide a substantial boost to Idaho's economy in that it would inject well over \$1 billion into the state. It would also directly create more than 500 well-paying jobs that would indirectly benefit the surrounding area through wage distribution and indirectly creating more jobs. In sum, throughout the life of the project, they estimate that their presence would create approximately \$150 million in sales transactions in the regional economy.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vincent