

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 10

BY RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, THE SEC-
3 RETARY OF THE INTERIOR, THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTEC-
4 TION AGENCY AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE
5 OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

6 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Sen-
7 ate of the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the
8 Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

9 WHEREAS, mining played an integral role in the settlement of the West
10 and Idaho in particular, hence its motto "The Gem State"; and

11 WHEREAS, mining activity for minerals including tungsten, antimony,
12 gold and silver has taken place in the Stibnite Mining District in Valley
13 County, Idaho, since 1899; and

14 WHEREAS, the supply of tungsten and antimony from the Stibnite Mining
15 District was critical to the United States war efforts during World War II
16 and the Korean War; and

17 WHEREAS, after decades of mining activity that largely pre-dated state
18 and federal regulatory guidelines, standards and oversight left the Stib-
19 nite area in need of repair and a legacy of millions of tons of unlined tail-
20 ings, blocked fish passage and conditions degrading water quality; and

21 WHEREAS, Midas Gold Idaho, Inc., has proposed to redevelop a portion
22 of the historic Stibnite Mining District as outlined in the Stibnite Gold
23 Project Plan of Restoration and Operations, delivered to the United States
24 Forest Service in September 2016 for review under the National Environmental
25 Policy Act (NEPA); and

26 WHEREAS, the Stibnite Gold Project is designed to clean up legacy envi-
27 ronmental impacts before and during mining; and

28 WHEREAS, the United States dependency on foreign minerals has doubled
29 in the last twenty years, and China controls 83% of the world's antimony re-
30 sources. The Stibnite Gold Project would be the only domestic source of pri-
31 mary antimony, a critical component for flame retardants essential to the
32 defense and energy sectors and for metal strengthening; and

33 WHEREAS, bureaucratic delays and redundant policies have expanded the
34 time frame for environmental permitting to anywhere from seven to ten years,
35 or longer, which is considerably longer than other countries with comparable
36 environmental standards; and

37 WHEREAS, modern regulations require that companies set aside adequate
38 financial assurances to cover the cost of environmental cleanup, ensuring
39 that reclamation is completed; and

40 WHEREAS, once approved, the Stibnite Gold Project will provide a \$1 bil-
41 lion investment in Idaho, including upgrades to public infrastructure such
42 as roads and power lines in rural Idaho. The project will provide approx-
43 imately 1,000 well-paying direct and indirect jobs to Idahoans, and expand

1 the economy with more than \$40 million in direct annual payroll during oper-
2 ations and hundreds of millions in federal, state and local taxes over the
3 life of the project. This will be an economic boon to the people and busi-
4 nesses of the great State of Idaho, where rural communities have been hard-
5 hit over recent decades; and

6 WHEREAS, over the last seven years, Midas Gold Idaho's involvement in
7 the community, commitment to building a mine that will help the community and
8 the environment, and dedication to being a partner with local communities
9 proves they are the right team to undertake this project.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular
11 Session of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives
12 and the Senate concurring therein, that the State of Idaho supports actions
13 by the U.S. Forest Service and other federal agencies, in partnership with
14 agencies of the great State of Idaho and Valley County, to move forward to
15 approve the Stibnite Gold Project in a timely and cost-effective manner to
16 permit the redevelopment and restoration of the site.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we believe Midas Gold Idaho's commitment to
18 mining in a way that restores and protects the environment will serve as a
19 global template for responsible, sustainable and successful mining prac-
20 tices.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government agencies commit ad-
22 equate, experienced and knowledgeable personnel and sufficient financial
23 resources to complete the review under NEPA and other laws and regulations
24 as expeditiously as possible, while ensuring compliance with those laws and
25 regulations.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Represen-
27 tatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of
28 this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Agri-
29 culture, the Secretary of the Interior, the Administrator of the Environmen-
30 tal Protection Agency, and to the congressional delegation representing the
31 State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.