

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 14, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to bring to your specific attention several important developments related to the Stibnite Gold Project in our home State of Idaho. The Stibnite Gold Project is slated to directly employ an average of 500 people a year with an estimated annual payroll of \$42 million. This will generate desperately needed employment opportunities and revenue to provide services in the rural Idaho counties of Valley, Adams, and Idaho. The project will also provide substantial remediation and environmental benefits by reconnecting long-standing blocked passage for Endangered Species Act listed fish and cleaning up decades of hazardous substances presently contributing to water quality issues in the Payette National Forest.

Unfortunately, the Payette National Forest determined last month that they were once again delaying completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for an additional four months, until December 27, 2019. This is the seventh delay announced by United States Forest Service (USFS) in the past two years that has added unnecessary uncertainty and expense to Midas Gold, the company working to permit and operate the project. It is imperative that the Forest Service complete its work on the DEIS and make it available to public as soon as practicable.

The company invested well over \$25 million in developing an extensive and detailed Plan of Restoration and Operations (PRO) that included an extensive review of all reasonable alternatives prior to its initial presentation to the Forest Service in late 2016. Subsequent to filing the PRO, Midas Gold has invested additional significant disbursement in excess of \$25 million in advancing the permitting process, including funding to help support Forest Service personnel to efficiently review the PRO and prepare the DEIS. In total, Midas Gold has invested more than \$180 million in the project to date.

We are greatly concerned that the delayed project review by the Payette National Forest personnel and contractors has, and will continue to, add years to a final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (ROD), thereby delaying, and even jeopardizing, the environmental benefits and job-creating potential of the project.

Our request is straightforward:

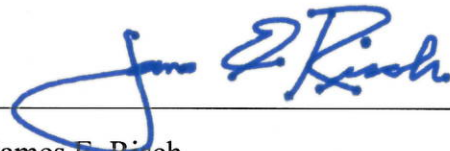
1. Address the ongoing delays on the DEIS directly with the Payette National Forest and provide adequate resources to finish the DEIS without further extensions or delays.
2. Work cooperatively with Midas Gold and the other cooperating agencies and the public in that regard.
3. Perform statutory functions in a prompt and professional manner.
4. Provide monthly updates to the Congressional delegation on the progress of the DEIS until it is completed.

We greatly appreciate your attention to this extremely important project.

Sincerely,



Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



James E. Risch  
United States Senator



Mike Simpson  
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress

Cc:

Dr. Scott Hutchins, Deputy Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics  
Ms. Vicki Christiansen, Chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service  
Ms. Nora Rasure, Regional Forester for the Intermountain Region