

7970 Red Oak Drive  
Mounds View, MN 55112

3/12/24

Chair Founq Hawj

MN Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy  
1150 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave W.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

SF 4898- Support for Native Fish Bill

Dear Chair Sen Hawj and committee members:

I'm writing in support of SF 4898 (Native rough fish provisions and aquatic farm licenses and taking and possessing fish conforming changes), also known as the No Junk Fish Bill. As a forward-thinking state, this important bill must be passed.

As it stands today, our current approach towards fish species classified as "rough fish" is unscientific and unsustainable. Our fish are an invaluable natural resource and maintaining them into the future should mean conservation of all native species in the state. While some anglers may not put them on a pedestal like walleye or muskies, they're still critical parts of the ecosystem regardless and largely unappreciated partially due to the DNR turning a blind eye to them for decades. Its incompatible with the conservation model we've used for decades to protect and save other species, and to continue down this path is a mistake. Now we have an opportunity to correct it with SF 4898.

I've included a photo of my son holding a shorthead redhorse caught out of the Mississippi River in Minneapolis this past summer, a native species that is not only beautiful but perfect for kids to hold as you can see. They're his favorite fish and we need to take them as seriously as my boy does.

I appreciate your time and consideration!

Regards,  
Evan Koch

