



From: Friends of Pool 2  
P O Box 284  
Newport, MN 55055

Date: March 13, 2024

To: Chair FOUNG HAWJ  
MN Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy  
1150 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave W.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 4898- Support for Native Fish Bill

Dear Chair Sen Hawj and committee members:

I serve as the Executive Director of the Minnesota nonprofit organization called Friends of Pool 2. On behalf of our Board of Directors, members, and followers, I respectfully submit the following written testimony in support of the bill referenced above.

**Why we care.** The mission of Friends of Pool 2, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, includes advocating for all river users on the Mississippi River, and protecting and improving the health of the river in Pool 2. We currently represent the interests of more than 1200 recreational and commercial river users, river-related businesses, marinas, and riverfront property owners, many of whom enjoy this body of water on a daily or weekly basis. We are proud to live in harmony with the river and we care passionately about water quality, the health of the river environment, and protecting our native ecosystem. Here are a few reasons we support this bill:

Native rough fish are a resource to the people of Minnesota. They provide fishing opportunities and numerous ecological services, such as hosting native mussel larvae, preying on invasive species, and as forage for eagles, ospreys, and otters. Several species are culturally significant to indigenous communities. Unfortunately, many of these species are in long-term decline or now gone from significant parts of their historical range. The Native Fish Bill is necessary for managing and conserving these species for generations to come.

**For more information.** We would be delighted to share our thoughts on this issue when it is convenient. For more information about our organization, please feel free to visit our website at [www.FriendsofPool2.org](http://www.FriendsofPool2.org). You may also contact us via our Facebook page, or directly through our email address, which is: [info@FriendsofPool2.org](mailto:info@FriendsofPool2.org)

Sincerely,

Linda Michie, Executive Director