

Chair FOUNG 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 am a lifelong Minnesota angler and also President of Native Fish For Tomorrow. Our group strives to advocate for under-appreciated native sport fish. This Native Fish Bill (SF4898) is a great step in the right direction towards promoting the recreational, cultural and ecological importance of our wonderful native fish species.

For too long in Minnesota, this group of roughly 26 varied and unique species representing 9 genera have been lumped together with exotic, invasive carp as "Roughfish". Exotic, invasive carp can cause damage to certain ecosystems, and have rightfully been vilified by the public. However, our incredible native fishes such as redhorse, gar, mooneyes and bowfin suffer from the same perception because current statutes group them together with carp. This needs to change, and The Native Fish Bill is a great start.

Native Fish For Tomorrow fully endorses SF4898, and we also speak for thousands of Minnesota fisherpeople who enjoy angling for all of the wonderful native fishes that swim in our waters. Fish scientists and researchers we collaborate with are also excited, because they understand the impact that simple change in perception can have on our native fishes. We are lucky to have the diversity of fishes in Minnesota to enjoy angling for, and all of us have seen the need to stand up and protect what we love.

Kind regards,

Drew Geving
President, Native Fish For Tomorrow