

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 Senator Hawj and committee members,

I wish to register my support in the strongest possible terms for SF 4898. This bill helps further a process that has been a dream of mine for years, and as the first comprehensive native fish conservation legislation in any state, it will pave the way forward for the rest of the country. It is fitting that it is happening in Minnesota, the state where the native fish movement began.

The importance of native biodiversity for the health and resiliency of ecosystems cannot be overstated, but aquatic ecosystems are often overlooked. This is a unique opportunity to move toward protecting this biodiversity before it is too late, for those species of fish that are already in trouble in Minnesota, for those that could go that way, and especially for those about which we have insufficient data.

I and my family fish in Minnesota, my child goes to college in Minnesota, and my family has ties to the state going back well over a century. I am proud to know that Minnesota is leading the country on this issue.

Olaf Nelson

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