

Chair Founj 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 writing you to encourage you to pass SF 4898 in order to ensure protections for our native fish species.

I am an avid angler and an artist whose art focuses on fish. If you know of the coaster brook trout signs all along the north shore, my art was used for that campaign. While I love all of the native sport fish of our state, I have increasingly targeted “rough” fish...both with my fly rod and as a subject for my art. The more I learn the more I’m convinced that the entire concept of “rough” fish is flawed thinking. ALL native fish are essential parts of our water ecosystems. With this bill, you have the opportunity to make history and create a pathway for a plan that is more aligned both with science and ethics.

Thank you for considering my testimony and I strongly encourage you to pass this bill now. Our state can lead the way on this. Once other states see that this is possible, I’m encouraged to think they will follow in our path.

Thank you,

Ted Hansen