



April 2, 2025

Re: Written Testimony to Support SF1247

To Whom It May Concern:

As a social justice educator, I am writing in support of SF1247. Over the past five years, I am grateful to have learned from my Anishinaabe colleagues and friends the importance of Wild Rice as a source of nourishment, as an economic livelihood in Minnesota, and as a cultural practice. It is for all of these reasons, that I support the passage of SF1247 to protect Wild Rice in Minnesota. I am keenly aware that Wild Rice is essential to the health of ecosystems but also to the cultural vitality of indigenous communities who reside in Minnesota. As we navigate the climate crisis now and in the years to come, my personal experience alongside extensive sociological and environmental scholarship demonstrate how essential it is that we learn from the leadership and practices of our Indigenous community members. Indeed, this is what a commitment to social justice and to ecological wellbeing requires of us. Indigenous peoples' vitality, safety, health and sense of belonging is deeply interlinked with the wellbeing of Manoomin and *Psiη* (Wild Rice) and thus, I believe firmly it is the State of Minnesota's responsibility to do all we can to protect it.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Amy C. Finnegan".

Amy C. Finnegan, Ph.D
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Department of Justice & Society Studies