



# Bois Forte

## TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

To the Honorable Minnesota State Legislature Members

Here is our letter of support for the Rights of Wild Rice from the Bois Forte Conservation Committee. Nett Lake is home of the Authentic Wild Rice Experience. As the World's Finest Wild Rice producer, we here in Bois Forte support the upcoming Manoomin/Psínj (Wild Rice) legislation. Wild Rice is very important culturally and economically to us, Bois Forte Band of Minnesota Chippewa.

It is critical to ensure Wild Rice survival for future generations. We must take immediate action to protect Wild Rice as not only a commitment to our heritage and culture now, but to our future generations to come. We have a duty and obligation to protect and honor this sacred plant for our traditions and ceremonies. Wild Rice is threatened on many levels from climate change and invasive species to pollution and habitat degradation.

This legislation represents a critical step in securing protection of wild rice rights and safeguarding the future of this sacred plant, our communities, and our environment.

Wild Rice is not only the state grain of Minnesota, but a cornerstone of our economy, providing essential nutritional sustenance and significant economic benefits that support our communities and our state.

**We urge lawmakers to take bold action and pass the Rights of Wild Rice!!!** We trust that the State of Minnesota Legislature will rise to this occasion and act in the best interest of our People, our environment and Wild Rice.

Miigwech (thank you) for your immediate attention to this critical matter!!

Bois Forte Conservation Committee

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Strong", is placed over a horizontal line.

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2/18/2025

Kevin Strong, Chairman

Date

<div>Signed by:  0D7B5349FC7B4CB...</div>	2/21/2025
Jerry Goggleye, Vice Chairman	Date
<div>DocuSigned by:  7EFCBF7860254C8...</div>	2/21/2025
Doris Isham, Secretary Treasurer	Date
<div>DocuSigned by:  298272D61926417...</div>	2/21/2025
Ed Villebrun, Committee Member	Date
<div>Signed by:  9C183D270BE14C0...</div>	2/21/2025
Bryan Porter, Committee Member	Date
<div>DocuSigned by:  CCFED0A9ACA74C5...</div>	2/25/2025
Bill Isham, Committee Member	Date
<div>DocuSigned by:  E86354DD8B6E479...</div>	2/25/2025
Tracey Dagen, Committee Member	Date

CC: Bois Forte Tribal Council

Chris Holm, DNR Director

Tony Mason, Conservation Officer

Brian Whiteman Jr, Conservation Officer