

To the Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee:

Please support the Wild Rice Act SF 1247, HF 2134 to ensure the long-term viability of wild rice and its cultural, ecological, and economic importance. Wild rice, known as manoomin (Anishinaabe) and psin (Dakota), is a treaty-protected food and our state grain.

Wild rice acts as an indicator species, a visual clue to the overall health of the ecosystem. Measures to protect wild rice will:

- support local food systems and biodiversity, including species listed by the MNDNR with greatest conservation needs.
- support Minnesota's economy through its harvest and whose habitats benefit wildfowl hunters.
- honor the cultural heritage of indigenous peoples, whose connection to the land and water stretches back thousands of years.
- protect pollinators, such as butterflies, which have shown an alarming decline in the past twenty years (Science Vol. 387, No. 6738 Rapid butterfly declines across the United States during the 21st century).

Actions, such as creating a pesticide management plan, are critical for preserving Minnesota's ecological, economic, and cultural resources. Please support SF 1247 and its companion bill when it is introduced in the house.

Sincerely,

Libby Bent
Duluth, MN