

I am writing in **support of SF 1247, The Wild Rice Act (Kunesh)** Pesticide provisions modification to protect wild rice waters

I support and borrow the following language from Rise & Repair:

Whereas, Wild rice, known as *manoomin* to the Anishinaabeg and *psíŋ* to the Lakota and Dakota, is:

1. central their culture and spirituality
2. crucial to the health of people
3. an important member of Minnesota ecosystems
4. highly nutritious for all people
5. core to Anishinaabeg and Dakota economies
6. as the state grain of Minnesota, is also core to the Minnesota economy
 - a. \$13 million annually from harvesters
 - i. Creating approximately 153 local jobs
 - b. Another \$19 million and 125 jobs through sales of Wild Rice
7. a critical part of the Minnesota environment
 - a. that requires no fertilizers to grow
 - b. is central to Minnesota's biodiversity – more than 17 species of wildlife listed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as “species of greatest conservation need” use wild rice lakes as habitat for reproduction or foraging.
8. According to the [Governor's Wild Rice Task Force](#), historical data shows the abundance of wild rice has decreased in Minnesota and is no longer abundant in southern Minnesota.
9. Manoomin/psíŋ faces many threats from climate change, invasive species, pollution, and genetically engineered organisms.
10. Sulfate byproducts from current and proposed sulfide-ore mines like Polymet and Talon can leach into the fresh waters in which wild rice grows, not just negatively impacting the rice itself, but also the plant and animal life that depend on this grain – including us!
11. Wild Rice habitat benefits waterfowl hunters, who contribute approximately \$43 Million annually to our economy

I had the privilege and opportunity to harvest wild rice one year. I've canoed among the plants in multiple lakes. I urge you to rise to the occasion, begin to repair the damage already caused and support SF 1247.

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