



April 1, 2025

TO: Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee

FROM: Evan Mulholland, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

RE: SF 1247 (Kunesh) Wild Rice -- **SUPPORT**

Chair Hawj and Members of the Committee:

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) is a nonprofit organization with 50 years of experience using law and science to protect Minnesota's environment and the health of its people.

MCEA supports SF 1247 (Kunesh) regarding Wild Rice, as amended, because of the importance of Wild Rice to Indigenous people, to the health of our ecosystems and to the earth. MCEA has long partnered with, and stands in solidarity with, the Indigenous Nations that share Minnesota's geography and heritage. And, MCEA participates in the Rise and Repair Alliance, which supports this bill and the continued protection of Wild Rice.

We understand that SF 1247 will be amended by the author to limit its scope and emphasize the core aspects of the bill. While we'd like to see a more expansive bill that would establish clear protections for wild rice in statute, this targeted approach makes sense to us. The clear statement that wild rice has an inherent right to exist would be an important step toward lasting protection.

We strongly urge you to support the proposed bill.

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