

**LETTER SUPPORTING WILD RICE ACT
RESIDENTS OF SENATE DISTRICT 03**

Minnesota State Senate
95 University Ave W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg Office 3111
St. Paul, MN 55155

To the Honorable Senator Grant Hauschild,

We, the undersigned residents of Senate District, SD03, are writing this letter to express our strong support for S.F. 1247, authored by Senator Mary Kunesh and Co-authored by Rep. Alex Falconer in the House, the Wild Rice Act, *Psiñ Kin Yanka* (Dakota), *Ganawendan Manoomin* (Ojibwe).

As your constituents and supporters, we ask that you please vote for this bill and encourage your colleagues to support it. Many of us were planning to come to the Capitol to attend the hearing in person, but the expected storm changed our plans and we'll be watching the committee hearing from home.

Wild rice (*manoomin* in Ojibwe and *psiñ* in Dakota) is sacred and central to Ojibwe and Dakota culture, traditions, and ceremonies and it is Minnesota's state grain because it was staple food for centuries in the Great Lakes region.

This plant once thrived in Minnesota's pristine freshwater systems, but today its very existence is being threatened by water level fluctuations, conversion of wetlands to farmland and urban development, invasive species, harmful chemicals introduced by agricultural and industrial activities and irresponsible boating in shallow areas.

Together, we can address the damage we've caused to our waters and restore wild rice to the regions where it has traditionally flourished.

We strongly urge you to support this bill and work with us to protect wild rice for future generations.

Thank you,

Meredith Cornett
Joan Sutliff
Stephen Talkovich
Lambert Van Kessel
Monica Bruning
Mary Anderson

Emily Brown
Elton Brown
Kathryn Stingl
Linda Newman
Kathryn Stingl
Maggie Schuppert

Karl Kubiak
Matt Kelm
Enno Limvere
Jess Koski
Susan McCloughan
Tessa Olson

Carl Karasti
Avery Hildebrand
Toni Wakemup
Kelly Strong
Tracey Dagen
Stephanie A Hibdon
Valerie Myntti
Mary Mathiasen
Margarita Jesme
Barbara Jones
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Kathleen McQuillan
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William Kuttler
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Christina Daniel
Amy Renne
Mary Maurice
Lena Santos
Andrew Keith
Gloria Erickson
Kari Everist
Russell Alioth
Andy Beim
Vern Northrup
Gillian Fitzgerald
Destry Winant
Anne Grignon
Chel Anderson
Jessica Edberg
Rachel Hedlund
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David Coleman
Colleen Elftmann
Sharon Kuttler
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Dan Drehmel
Shannon Strong