

April 2, 2025

To the members of the Minnesota Legislature:

I am writing in support of Bill SF1247, the Wild Rice Act.

As a Minnesota resident, member of Creekside UCC, and speaking as a person of faith, I am asking that the Wild Rice Act be passed.

Wild rice is significant to our Indigenous neighbors not only as a part of their economic system but more importantly this rice is integral to their traditional beliefs and ceremonies.

As a Minnesotan I am proud that this nutrient rich food is part of our regional earth's bounty. I am proud that my native brothers and sisters nurture, harvest, and provide this gift for us all to enjoy.

To preserve the future of wild rice waters we must ACT to protect the waters from the environmental hazards, whether that be restricted watercraft usage or managing pesticide use. Most importantly, we must collaborate with the Minnesota Tribal Government, seeking their input.

Thank you,

Penelope Tower