



To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Securing Indigenous Peoples' Rights in the Green Economy (SIRGE) Coalition, we write to express our strong support for the Rights of Manoomin/Psínj Resolution introduced in the Minnesota state legislature this year.

We recognize the importance of Manoomin/Psínj, or wild rice, to Anishinaabeg and Dakota traditions and culture, as well as the culture of all Minnesotans. Moreover, we know that Manoomin/Psínj plays a vital role in maintaining biodiversity and the overall health of ecosystems in Minnesota.

The preservation of Manoomin/Psínj is urgent in order to maintain the health of freshwater habitats. Without immediate action to protect it, there is the risk of irreparable damage to the delicate balance of natural resources. As legislators, your support is crucial for safeguarding Manoomin/Psínj for future generations.

Minnesota's wild rice is now under threat from proposed nickel mines throughout the region. The extraction of metals, particularly nickel, poses significant environmental and social challenges, especially when it intersects with water and with the territories of Indigenous Peoples. Nickel mining can have detrimental effects on ecosystems, water quality, and Indigenous communities' traditional lands and resources. This contamination not only harms aquatic life but also jeopardizes the health and livelihoods of communities that rely on these waters for drinking, fishing, and cultural practices.

Recognizing the rights of Manoomin/Psínj is not only a matter of environmental conservation but also upholds Indigenous sovereignty and the interconnectedness of cultural and ecological systems. We wholeheartedly support the Rights of Manoomin/Psínj Resolution and urge you and your colleagues to do the same.

Furthermore, as demand for energy transition minerals rises, it is crucial to observe and implement the right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) as enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. FPIC ensures that Indigenous communities have a say in projects that would affect their lands and resources, fostering meaningful dialogue and respecting their autonomy. This legislation is a step forward in that regard.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
SIRGE Coalition
Cultural Survival
Society for Threatened Peoples
Earthworks

Batani Foundation
Tallgrass Institute