

April 22, 2024

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE MANOOMIN/PSÍŃ
RESOLUTION

To: Members of the Minnesota Senate & House of Representatives

On behalf of Earthworks, an organization dedicated to protecting communities and the environment from the impacts of extraction, we write to express our strong support for the Wild Rice Act Ganawendan Manoomin (Ojibwe) Psin Kin Yanka (Dakota) S.F. 1247 introduced in the Minnesota state legislature this year. We recognize the importance of Manoomin/Psín, or wild rice, to Anishinaabeg and Dakota traditions and culture, as well as the culture of all Minnesotans. Moreover, we know that Manoomin/Psín plays a vital role in maintaining biodiversity and the overall health of ecosystems in Minnesota.

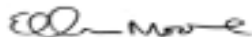
The preservation of Manoomin/Psín is urgent in order to maintain the health of freshwater habitats. This plant species serves as a vital component of Minnesota's ecosystems and a critical resource that sustains the natural environment. Without immediate action to protect it, we risk irreparable damage to the delicate balance of natural resources. As legislators, your support is crucial for safeguarding Manoomin/Psín for future generations. We view the rights of Manoomin/Psín as critical to protecting and preserving this sacred plant for future generations.

Minnesota's wild rice is under threat from a proposed nickel mine. As the demand for minerals for the renewable energy transition rises, it is increasingly important to recognize the significant environmental and social risks associated with metals mining including habitat destruction, soil erosion, and acid mine drainage, a process that can require water treatment in perpetuity. This pollution not only harms aquatic life but also jeopardizes the traditional land, resources and cultural practices of Indigenous communities.

This Resolution is important for environmental conservation and Indigenous sovereignty. We urge legislators to demonstrate their commitment to protecting biodiversity and upholding Indigenous rights and the interconnectedness of cultural and ecological systems.

We wholeheartedly support the Wild Rice Act Ganawendan Manoomin (Ojibwe) Psin Kin Yanka (Dakota) S.F. 1247 and respectfully urge members of the Minnesota legislature to do the same. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ellen Moore

Interim Mining Program Co-Director