

SF 3915

Raining Albert White

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Member, Minnesota Resident

In Support

To the Minnesota Legislature:

I am writing in support of SF 3915. I believe the over use of pesticides across Minnesota waters are a disservice and detriment to the public's and natural world's well-being. Currently, the amount of pesticides being used in Minnesota is unknown. You can buy a multitude of chemicals from retail stores to treat shorelines, you can easily obtain permits from MNDNR with little to no follow up, and you can illegally use chemicals with little repercussions due to limited enforcement. Often times, those who own lake shore property are able to decide what should and should not be in the water, including aquatic life like manoomin, or wild rice. Would we allow private individuals to spray pesticides in public lands such as forested areas because they do not like the vegetation? Do we allow those who live across city parks to do what they want to the park for their own benefit? Public waters belong to no one, but all of the public has vested interest. Tribal treaty rights are harmed by mismanagement of aquatic life due to over use and reliance on pesticides. Rare and endangered plants and animals are harmed by pesticide use in public waters. Livelihoods of Minnesota's across the state are disrupted by actions taken by a few. The State of Minnesota needs to do better to protect manoomin. Manoomin, as an indicator species, gives insight to the health of the water bodies where it is found. Manoomin is a sacred plant to Indigenous communities and is used by many others, including non-indigenous peoples. The State must protect this plant by more closely monitoring, and limiting, the use of pesticides.