

Beth Tamminen

I support maintaining and enforcing the current legal standard of 10 ppm for all wild rice waters, including those that have been impaired by recent industrial activity to the point that they have lost much of their wild rice growth. Living in Duluth, I am very aware of the many efforts to clean up the St. Louis River and its watershed and subsequently the waters of Lake Superior. The mercury levels in fish in the lake are unacceptably putting children's health at risk. And the impairment of the waters for wild rice also put up a major barrier for current tribal efforts to rebuild community and individual resiliency and strength after centuries of exploitation and loss.

There appears to be no scientific basis for moving to a complex, cumbersome system of evaluating every body of water, and that method has been rejected in the past. Do what is best for our tribal nations and for the health of all of us in the St. Louis River watershed and the Lake Superior region and follow through on the standard that is in law. Thank you.