## Kira Vega

The MPCA must enforce Minnesota's wild rice sulfate standard of 10 parts per million (ppm) under the Clean Water Act and decisions of the Minnesota courts. MPCA has no discretion to continue to delay or deny enforcement, and the 10 ppm sulfate standard is the "effects threshold" for wild rice impairment. Also, the MPCA must not allow polluters to degrade high-quality, low-sulfate wild rice waters as the Clean Water Act and Minnesota law prohibit water quality degradation in Minnesota lakes, streams, and wetlands. Many of Minnesota's most abundant wild rice stands in the Boundary Waters, the Lake Superior watershed, and north-central Minnesota (including the Big Sandy Lake area) have far less than 10 ppm of sulfate. MPCA permitting should not allow sulfate in these wild rice waters to increase even if the degraded level of sulfate remains just below the standard. I care a lot about the future of wild rice and whom it will affect, and I sincerely hope that the MPCA will do the right thing to preserve its future.