

Ashley Deitering

I am deeply troubled by the MPCAs incompetence in the protection of our lands and waters. It seems as though the agencies concerned more with accommodating for big polluters by bending the laws in their favor putting corporate interest ahead of the well being of the citizens of Minnesota. We continue to go back and forth on how much pollution should be allowed to enter our water ways. We are in a water crisis here in the land of 10,000 lakes with Over 40percent of water ways contaminated by many different forms of pollution. Pollution causes harm plaine and simple and debating how much the MPCA will allow corporations to get away with is rediculous. We have the science to show the negative impacts of sulfate pollution on wild rice water ways. The MPCAs equation method to determine if wild rice production would be protected without the 10ppm standard was debunked in contested case proceedings in 2018. The site specific loop hole should not be used to resurrect this scientifically unsupported theory.

A Threat to the wild rice is a direct assualt on the communities that depend on it physically,spirtually,mentally,economically. Wild rice is a sacred food of the annishanabe-the first peoples of these lands. Allowing sulfate to contaminate wild rice waters is a violation of Treaty rights which is then a violation of our constitution(article 6) which states that treaties are the supreme law of the land. The lack of protections for wild rice not only threatens the present but will continue to impact future generations. No "Site specific standard" for discharge of sulfate to wild rice should be approved by MPCA without tribal consultation and tribal CONCENT. We must change the course of history doing away with genocidal policies such as the ones that allow for more pollution to harm our water ways. What we do to the water we do to ourselves. All living beings are dependant on clean water to thrive. As an enviromental protection agency is your responsibility to protect us from pollution not to give the green light on more pollution. We must stop sacrificing our well being and our future generations for the sake of corporate polluters that exploit the land,the waters and all those dependant. We should be working towards stronger legal protections for wild rice not creating loop holes for the pollution to enter our water ways.