

Emily Meyer

I am a Minnesotan who asks you to enforce the 10 mg/L sulfate standard at Keetac Mine because wild rice is a sacred element in Indigenous spiritual practices and we have a sacred and ethical duty to stand for the religious rights of all US citizens - and, because I love wild rice.

Wild rice is emblematic of Minnesota and our shared heritage.

Wild rice is a keystone species that reveals the well-being of every other species within shared ecosystems.

When wild rice does not fare well, it means the water in which it grows is not faring well.

And when Minnesota water does not fare well, no human on the continent fares well.

Our legislature passed the 10 mg/L sulfate standard specifically to protect wild rice precisely because the grain is so important to so many of our lives. That's why I ask you, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, to control the pollution that threatens this plant. An out-of-state corporation's complaints that it will make less profit – not no profit – are simply not as important as the health, welfare, and culture of Minnesotans.

Additionally, the 'profit' argument is senselessly short-sighted: one international corporation's 'greater profits' right now, means a diminishment of non-extractive, renewable resources like wild rice - and the well-being - of actual Minnesotans. Please stand with and ensure the rights and well-being of the citizens you are in office to protect.