Beth Ann Mackey

To Whom It May Concern at the MPCA,

As a resident of Keewatin, near the Keetac facility, I am deeply concerned about the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) approach to sulfate compliance in the draft permits. Requiring compliance at each individual outfall, when all discharges flow into a single water body, is not only inefficient but scientifically misleading. The permittee's request to use a single downstream compliance point is a more accurate and protective approach, and it should be honored. Furthermore, I am troubled by the MPCA's refusal to act on or approve the site-specific standard (SSS) requests submitted by U. S. Steel in 2014 and 2022. These applications followed MPCA's own guidance and presented compelling evidence that a higher sulfate standard is appropriate for Hay Lake, where wild rice has thrived for decades despite discharges.

I urge the MPCA to:

-Refrain from including sulfate limits in Keetac's permits. If limits are imposed, they must be based on a single, scientifically valid compliance point.
-Abide by the 2011 law and update the outdated 10 mg/L sulfate standard, which modern science has shown to be inaccurate.

I live and work in this area and experienced what happened to our community, both social and economically 40 years ago in the 1980's. Let us learn from this and not let this happen again.

Sincerely,
Beth Ann Mackey
Concerned Resident of Keewatin