

Office of Administrative Hearings  
P.O. Box 64620  
Saint Paul, MN 55164-0620

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

RE: Docket 80-90030-34519

Dear Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA):

I am writing today to urge you to carefully review all the facts and the consequences before making any decision on a sulfate water quality standard.

The MPCA's rulemaking should be science-based and inclusive of all available research. Failure to adjust the current standard to be reasonable and science-based will result in devastating financial impacts to cities and businesses throughout the state, and would result in major job losses on the Iron Range.

I support protecting wild rice. However, the proposed rule is not proven to be effective in protecting wild rice. An effective standard should use sound science that considers all of the environmental impacts to wild rice, such as water depth, water clarity, fluctuations in hydrology, invasive species, and shoreline development to determine appropriate sulfate levels.

Thousands of Iron Range residents and their families are counting on the MPCA to do the right thing and establish a water quality standard that is based on modern science. We are also counting on the MPCA to seriously reconsider its proposal to require our communities and important industries to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on wastewater treatment that might not have any significant impact on wild rice in northeast Minnesota.

Thank you for accepting my comments. Our community is counting on the MPCA to listen to us before making a final decision. There is too much at stake to get this wrong.

Sincerely,

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Full name (please print)