



**The governor recently vetoed legislation that had been passed with bipartisan support in both the House of Representatives and the Senate to eliminate the obsolete 10 mg/L wild rice sulfate standard and provide funding for wild rice restoration and management projects.**

**The IMA is requesting that Governor Mark Dayton work with communities, labor, and industry to bring this 10-year wild rice rulemaking process to an end because:**

- It has not been proven that wild rice will be more abundant if the outdated rule is implemented.
  - The rule is based on outdated science using field observations from the 1940s that does not take into account key factors affecting wild rice, including water depth, invasive species, and other naturally occurring factors.
  - The standard has never been enforced, and the DNR called last year a “bumper crop” for wild rice in Minnesota.
- There are dramatic costs to local communities, residences, and businesses
  - Reverse osmosis is the only treatment technology available to meet the standard and these systems are costly to install and maintain.
  - Indianapolis complied with new wastewater treatment standards by installing a reverse osmosis system. This installation resulted in \$160/mo/home increase in water bills.
- Enforcement of the standard would harm our key industry in Northeast Minnesota
  - Our strongest industry in Northeast Minnesota is iron ore mining. For more than 130 years, this industry has worked in collaboration with many of our communities to build and grow Northeast Minnesota. Enforcement of the outdated rule would cause over \$1 billion in wastewater investments rather than investing in job growth and innovative new projects that will bring the industry into a new decade.
  - These costs are unacceptable when compliance is not proven to help wild rice.
- We all want to protect wild rice, but enforcement of the standard is not guaranteed to do that. The best starting point is eliminating the obsolete standard and provide funding to identify best practices that would make wild rice more abundant in Minnesota.