



Written by [Ty Bodden](#) on March 12, 2026

Inherent Right to Life for ... Wild Rice?

Minnesota Democrats are [advancing legislation](#) that would recognize an “inherent right” for uncultivated wild rice to “exist and thrive,” even as state law continues to uphold expansive abortion “rights.” [Senate File 3749 \(SF3749\)](#), introduced by [Senator Mary Kunesch](#) (D-New Brighton) on February 19, 2026, would amend Minnesota’s statute describing the state’s official grain and add language recognizing such a right.

The proposal comes three years after Governor Tim Walz [signed](#) the [Protect Reproductive Options \(PRO\) Act](#) into law on January 31, 2023. The law codifies abortion as a “fundamental right” in Minnesota statute, and allows the procedure at any stage when deemed necessary for the mother’s health.

Wild rice has been Minnesota’s official [state grain](#) since 1977. SF3749 expands the statute declaring such to include scientific names and indigenous terms, and adds: “It is the policy of this state to recognize the inherent right of uncultivated wild rice to exist and thrive in Minnesota.”

During a March 10 [hearing](#) before the Senate State and Local Government Committee, supporters emphasized wild rice’s cultural and environmental importance. An [oral amendment](#) to remove the “inherent rights” language failed on a 7-5 vote.



bhofack2/iStock/Getty Images Plus



Written by [Ty Bodden](#) on March 12, 2026



Mitchell Williamson

 @MWilliamsonMN · [Follow](#)

Minnesota Democrats are debating whether Wild Rice has an inherent right to life.

Two years ago they voted for abortion to be legal up to the moment of birth.



Watch on X

SF 3749 Jessica Intermill

Amending description of wild rice as state grain

State and Local Government Committee

9:26 AM · Mar 10, 2026

1.6K

Reply

Copy link

[Read 115 replies](#)

Wild rice is undeniably valuable to Minnesota’s heritage and ecosystem. Yet the language of rights carries serious meaning. Rights belong to human beings — created in the image of God and endowed by their Creator with [unalienable rights](#). When lawmakers extend such terminology to plants while refusing protection to preborn children, they are unserious, make illegitimate arguments, and reveal a deeper conflict over the source and meaning of rights.

In a [constitutional republic](#), government exists to secure God-given rights — beginning with the right to life, as recognized in the Declaration of Independence and protected by the [Ninth Amendment](#) to the [U.S. Constitution](#) — not invent new ones.



Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative,
non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



Subscribe

What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.