



Thursday, October 7, 2010

Dear Ray:

Knowing of your continued interest in protecting our nation's aquatic and environmental resources, I wanted to update you on some recent activity in Congress.

You will be pleased to know that I am a cosponsor of H.R. 2565, the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act. This legislation will establish the National Fish Habitat Board to promote, oversee, and coordinate the implementation of conservation goals and priorities and recommend fish habitat conservation projects in the future.

Today, 40 percent of our fish populations are in decline and half of our waters are impaired. Our fish populations depend upon the health of our waterways, and through protection of these habitats we can support the twin goals of clean water and species conservation.

This legislation will bolster fragmented efforts to reverse the decline of many of our fish populations by utilizing a partnership between federal and non-federal sources, including state governments, recreational and commercial fishing industries, the conservation community and businesses.

The bill also emphasizes public/private partnership to leverage private contributions in support of sustainable aquatic environments.

Minnesota is fortunate to have many important freshwater resources that are a vital part of the quality of life in our state. You can be sure of my continued support to protect our waterways and maintain our fish populations for future generations.

Thank you for keeping me informed of your concerns, as I appreciate hearing from you. Please let me know whenever I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erik".

Erik Paulsen  
Member of Congress