

## **ETHICS COMPLAINT**

### **Representative Alex Falconer**

#### Conflict of Interest

Rep. Alex Falconer has conducted himself in a manner that violates House Rule 6.10 of the Temporary Rules of the House. Rule 6.10 provides that:

A complaint may be brought about conduct by a member that violates a rule or administrative policy of the House, that violates accepted norms of House behavior, that betrays the public trust, or that tends to bring the House into dishonor or disrepute.

According to Rep. Falconer's economic interest statement (EIS; Appendix 1), he is employed by Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness (NMW) as a "senior advisor." In 2024, Rep. Falconer had filed with the Campaign Finance Board as a lobbyist on behalf of NMW (Appendix 2). NMW remains involved in lobbying elected officials at the Capitol and at the federal level. NMW leads the "Save the Boundary Waters" coalition.

During the 2025 Legislative Session, Rep. Falconer's first bill introduced was HF 309, a bill modifying mining restrictions in place in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. This bill was supported by Save the Boundary Water, a coalition of groups including NMW. In NMW's 2024 Annual Report, NMW touted the bill's introduction in 2024 and previewed that Rep. Falconer would be introducing it in the 2025 session (excerpt provided as Appendix 3).

Rep. Falconer has similarly authored other bills supported by NMW, including HF 2134, HF 3896, HF 3897, and HF 3898—each of which relate to wild rice. NMW has issued letters of support for each of these bills (Appendix 4).

Altogether, of the 19 bills chief authored by Rep. Falconer, six of them—nearly a third—have been lobbied for by Rep. Falconer's employer. The public already has a belief that their elected officials are bought and paid for by lobbyists. In this instance, Rep. Falconer has gone one step further and is literally employed by the organization which he is doing the bidding of.

This behavior is in clear conflict of the House's accepted norms and certainly brings the House into dishonor.

#### Employment as a Lobbyist

In addition to his violation of Rule 6.10, Falconer is in apparent violation of House Rule 9.10. That rule prohibits any members from "accept[ing] compensation for lobbying."

The 2024 NMW Annual Report listed Rep. Falconer as their "federal government affairs manager." (Excerpt provided as Appendix 5) And as of April 6, 2026, the Save the Boundary Waters website still lists Rep. Falconer as their "federal government relations manager."

[MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS](#)

**MEET THE SAVE THE BOUNDARY WATERS STAFF:**



**Ingrid Lyons**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Alex Falconer**  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
RELATIONS MANAGER



**Matt Norton**  
POLICY & SCIENCE  
DIRECTOR



**Samantha  
Chadwick**  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

*Figure 1 - Accessed April 6, 2026*

The website has seemingly been updated at other points this year, with other pages providing updates regarding actions in Congress as recently as March. Yet, Rep. Falconer remains listed as a federal lobbyist.

This rule is as clear as it gets: members may not be paid lobbyists. There are no exceptions or conditions. And yet, Rep. Falconer seems to be flagrantly violating the rule. While he is no longer registered to lobby at the state level, Rep. Falconer appears to continue to be compensated for lobbying the federal government.

Summary

Given these descriptions, Rep. Falconer's conduct clearly violates House Rules. Rep. Falconer's choice to repeatedly carry legislation being supported and lobbied for by his employer clearly violates House norms and brings the House into dishonor. Further, his apparent employment is as a paid lobbyist, a clear violation of House Rules.

We swear that the statements in this complaint are true, to the best of our knowledge. We request that Rep. Falconer be properly reprimanded and disciplined.

Representative Spencer Igo  
House District 7A

Representative Isaac Schultz  
House District 10B

## Search Public Officials Reporting

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## Statement of economic interest for a public official

### Official: Falconer, Alexander

Login to Follow (<https://logon.cfb.mn.gov/sso/login?returnTo=https://cfb.mn.gov/reports-and-data/officials-financial-disclosure/official//15587>) ➔

Statement last updated: 1/27/2026

Occupation: Senior Advisor

Employer: Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness

Ely, MN 55731

### Positions held

Agency	Position held	Appointment date	Appointment ends	Appointment authority
<a href="#">House of Representatives (/reports-and-data/officials-financial-disclosure/agency/60200000/)</a>	Representative	1/5/2025	1/4/2027	Elected

### Sources of income

Name of source	Relationship to source							
	Director	Officer	Owner	Member	Partner	Employer	Employee	Honorarium
Erica Falconer MS LMFT PLLC		✓						
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness							✓	

### Compensation from lobbyist, lobbyist principal, or interested person, for services as an independent contractor or consultant

None reported

## Business ownership

Business or professional activity category

Erica Falcolner MS LMFT PLLC

## Independent contracting

None reported

## Securities

None reported

## Real property

County	Address or section information	Owner	Mortgagee	Contract for deed	Option to buy \$250
Goodhue	1517 W 5th St	✓			
Lake	13376 Farm Lake Access Road	✓			

## Government agency interests

None reported

## Honoraria

None reported

## Pari-mutuel horse racing interests

None reported

Minnesota  
Campaign Finance and  
Public Disclosure Board

ReportYear 24  
ReportQuarter 1  
Submit Date 6/24/2024

### Lobbyist Disbursement Report

Due Date: 6/17/2024      Period Covered: 1/1/2024 through 5/31/2024      5674/7653

#### Lobbyist Information

**Lobbyist Name** Falconer, Alexander  
**Address** 18402 Avon Ct

**Lobbyist Number** 5674  
**Association Number** 7653

Eden Prairie MN 55346

**Telephone** (612) 419-3423

**Email** alex@savetheboundarywaters.org

**Name of individual, association, political subdivision, or public higher education system represented**  
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness - ([www.neminnesotansforwilderness.org](http://www.neminnesotansforwilderness.org))

#### Check appropriate box(es) below

1. Yes *I, and/or the lobbyists I am reporting for, attempted to influence legislative action on behalf of this entity during the period covered by this report.*
2. No *I, and/or the lobbyists I am reporting for, attempted to influence administrative action on behalf of this entity during the period covered by this report.*
3. No *I, and/or the lobbyists I am reporting for, attempted to influence the official action of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on behalf of this entity during the period covered by this report.*
4. No *I, and/or the lobbyists I am reporting for, attempted to influence the official action of a metropolitan governmental unit on behalf of this entity during the period covered by this report.*
5. No *No lobbying efforts were made by me, my entity, and/or the lobbyists I am reporting for during this reporting period.*
3. No *The entity that we represent paid for a gift or benefit equal in value to \$5 or more to an official.*
4. No *The entity we represent received more than \$500 from another entity in this calendar year to influence legislative action, administrative action, or the official action a metropolitan governmental unit.*
5. No *I or someone I am reporting for provided lobbying disbursements, gifts, or benefits from personal funds. (The lobbyist who provided a disbursement, gift, or benefit from personal funds must contact the Board office for a Report of Lobbyist's Disbursements From Personal Funds, which is due at the same time as this report).*
6. No *I am terminating my lobbyist registration and will send to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board a Lobbyist Termination Statement. Termination Date:*

### Lobbyist Disbursement Report

Due Date: 6/17/2024

Period Covered: 1/1/2024 through 5/31/2024

5674/7653

#### General Lobbying Categories

Reporting Lobbyist Falconer, Alexander

Leg  Admin  Metro  PUC  Category  
Environment and Natural Resources

#### Legislative Lobbying

Reporting Lobbyist Falconer, Alexander

Category Environment and Natural Resources Subject  
Boundary Water Area Mining

#### Aministrative Lobbying

None reported

#### Metropolitan Goverment Unit Lobbying

None reported

#### Public Utilities Commission Lobbying

None reported

#### Schedule B - Honoraria, gift, loan, item or benefit

Non reported

#### Schedule C -- Other sources of funds

None reported

#### Schedule D - Officers and directors of entity represented

Office	Officer Name	Address
Co-Chair	Jeff Soderstrom	1424 Walsh Rd Ely, MN 55731
Co-Chair	Jon Nelson	4117 W Pioneer Rd Duluth, MN 55803

I certify that this report is complete, true and correct.  
Falconer, Alexander

## 2025 STATE WORK PREVIEW

### The fight for the Boundary Waters at home intensifies

During the Minnesota legislative session (which runs from January to May), we devote extensive time to meeting with elected officials and their staff from all areas of the state. We also work hard to organize supporters to help build momentum for the permanent protection of this pristine Wilderness. In fact, last biennium, we had over 50 meetings with members at the Capitol, and brought volunteers, business owners, youth, and other Boundary Waters advocates from across the state to speak with members of the House and Senate.

We work closely with pro-Wilderness lawmakers in St. Paul and advocate for the "Boundary Waters Permanent Protection Bill," which was most recently introduced by Rep. Alex Falconer and Senator Steve Cwodzinski. The Boundary Waters Permanent

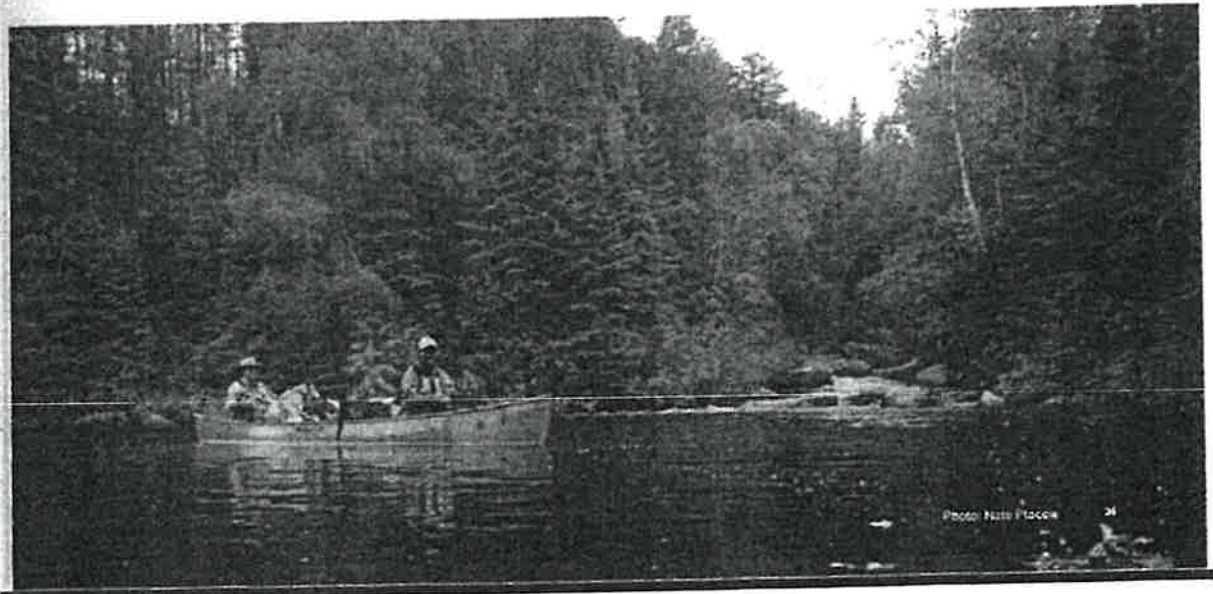
Protection Bill prohibits sulfide-ore copper mining operations on state lands in the Boundary Waters watershed.

We know passing new laws won't be easy — but we refuse to back down or compromise America's most visited and beloved Wilderness. Through lobbying, organizing, grassroots activism, and our passionate team of staff and volunteers, we will continue to have a persistent Boundary Waters presence at the Minnesota Capitol in 2025.

Are you interested in scheduling or attending a meeting with your Minnesota Representative or Senator? Contact [amanda@savetheboundarywaters.org](mailto:amanda@savetheboundarywaters.org) to get involved. We host meetings at the Capitol in St. Paul as well as locally in your home district.

Stay up to date on the latest threats and progress here:

[www.savetheboundarywaters.org/update](http://www.savetheboundarywaters.org/update)





ORGANIZATIONAL SIGN-ON LETTER SUPPORTING WILD RICE ACT  
UPDATED AS OF MARCH 28TH, 2025

Minnesota State Capitol  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**To the Honorable Members of the Minnesota Legislature,**

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our strong support for S.F. 1247 and H.F. 2134, the Wild Rice Act, *Psitj Kin Yanka* (Dakota), *Ganawendan Manoomin* (Ojibwe). Wild rice is central to Minnesota's economy, cultural traditions, and biodiversity. Tribal nations within the state of Minnesota agree that now is the time to stand together to protect wild rice and fresh water.

**Uncultivated Wild Rice Is a Crucial Minnesota Economic Driver.** According to Earth Economics report *The Food That Grows on Water*, "the annual wild rice harvest results in \$12.5 million in expenditures, and the sale of hand-harvested *manoomin* supports more than \$19.2 million in annual income for tribal harvesters. The annual spending associated with *manoomin* harvesting (gas, equipment, supplies) supports about 153 local jobs, and the annual income generated by the sale of *manoomin* supports an additional 125 jobs." This year, the impacts of mass precipitation events on wild rice across our state were devastating; many ricing areas were washed out due to intense rainfall in the spring. We must work together to ensure this sacred plant remains as an economic staple within our state.

**Uncultivated wild rice is a keystone species.** What happens to this plant reverberates through the web of life. According to the MNDNR's report on Natural Wild Rice, "No other native Minnesota plant approaches the level of cultural, ecological, and economic values embodied by this species. More than 17 species of wildlife listed in the MNDNR's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy as 'species of greatest conservation need' use wild rice lakes as habitat for reproduction or foraging." Wild rice produces oxygen that fish need to survive, filters out the nutrients that fuel midsummer algae blooms and fish kills, and provides food, shelter, and nesting areas for fish, invertebrates, and wildlife. Protecting wild rice protects biodiversity within our state.

**Wild rice is protected by treaties.** To acquire part of the land that is now Minnesota, the United States in 1837 made a treaty promise that Ojibwe tribes could to exercise "the privilege of hunting, fishing, and gathering the wild rice" within the ceded territory. Under the U.S. Constitution, this 1837 Treaty is the "supreme law of the land" and must be respected by states. This legislation would ensure that Minnesota protects wild rice and freshwater for all to enjoy for generations to come.

**Wild rice (*manoomin* in Ojibwe and *psij* in Dakota) is sacred.** It is central to Ojibwe and Dakota culture, traditions, and ceremonies. Over a thousand years ago, the third of seven prophets instructed the Anishinaabeg to journey west from near the Atlantic coast, where they would find "the food that grows on the water," and on faith, they walked to the land of 10,000 lakes and surrounding regions. *Manoomin* symbolizes their ancestors' journey, their relationship to the land, and their philosophy of caring for both water and wild rice. *Psij* was once central to Dakota culture and traditions as well. Wild rice was once abundant throughout Minnesota, but due to human activities it is no longer found in abundance in the southern part of the state. This decline in wild rice has led to a loss of cultural traditions for our Dakota relatives. If humans are the cause of this problem, then we also have the power to be the solution. This plant thrives in Minnesota's pristine freshwater systems, which are home to the largest wild rice population in the United States. But wild rice is facing mounting threats from invasive species, climate change, water pollution, and development that endangers its survival. Together, we can address the damage we've caused to our waters and restore wild rice to the regions where it has traditionally flourished.

The cultural, economic, and ecological importance of wild rice is irreplaceable. It must be safeguarded, ensuring that both current and future generations can continue to benefit from this sacred plant and the clean waters it thrives in. We, the undersigned organizations, strongly urge you to support this crucial legislation and work towards its passage with bipartisan unity. By doing so, we protect a legacy that nourishes both people and the land.

*Miigwech / Pilámaya / Thank you*

**The undersigned organizations and their authorized representatives hereby express their full support for this movement:**

Julia Nerbonne | Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light

Jessica Intermill | Intermill Consulting

Kate Winsor | Northeast Metro Climate Action

Dawn Goodwin | R.I.S.E Coalition

Maggie Schupert | CURE

Matt Norton | Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness

Paula Macabee | Water Legacy

Wallace Wadd | East Metro EcoFaith Collaborative

Sherri Knuth | Act For the Earth Team at Unity Unitarian Church

Andy Pearson | Three Waters Pipeline Resistance Team

Avonna Stark | Clean Water Action

Pouya Najmaie | Cooperative Energy Futures

Jean Ross | Vote Climate

Mary Keepers | Creekside United Church of Christ

Tom Grotewohl | Protect the Porkies

John Stoez | Repair Communities for Makoce Ikikcupi

Theresa Keaven | Climate Land Leaders

Tracy Molm and Whitney Wildman | Climate Justice Committee

Tish O'Dell | Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund

Robert Blake | Native Sun Committee Power Development

Rhonda Conn | Synergy Development Solutions

Ernest Oppegaard-Peltier III | Mukwa

Sarah LittleRedfeather | Giiwedining Treaty Rights and Museum

Terri Burner | Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance

Dr. Ry O Siggelkow | Leadership Center for Social Justice at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

Tom Uecker | NE MN ELCA Eco Faith

Emily Levang and Gwiiwizens: Ricky Defoe | Wankam: People for the Estuary

Peggy White | NEMN Synod of the ELCA EcoFaith Leadership Team

Tammy Walhof & Jacob Summerville | Lutheran Advocacy-MN

Bruce Garbisch | NE MN SNOD ELCA ECOFAITH NETWORK

Dr. Diane Jacobson | St. Paul Area Synod Care of Creation Team

Laura Scholl | Metro Blooms

Megan Bond | MN DFL Environmental Caucus

Melissa Baker Roach | Iron Ranger Partnership for Sustainability

Sue Lyback | North East Minnesota Synod Eco Faith Team

DeeDee Edlund | Edina Community Lutheran Church Eco Faith Team

Marylinn Torkelson | Wild Ones Prairie Edge Chapter

Michael Chameides | Rural Democracy Initiative

Tee McClenty | MN350 Action

Jessica Engelking | Great Plains Action Society

Nancy Carpenter | Beyond Land Acknowledgement/First UCC Northfield MN

Helen M. Pohlig | Indigenous Justice Community Outreach Ministry Team of Unity  
Church Unitarian

Rachel Holmes | Mills Church

Reverend David Carlson | Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Beth Tamminen | Climate Action Team, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth

Kelley Skumautz | Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate

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75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**To the Honorable Members of the Minnesota Legislature,**

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our strong support for greater protections for Wild Rice and freshwater within our state. Wild Rice is central to Minnesota's economy, cultural traditions, and biodiversity. We call on the legislature to pass legislation that will address the following issues:

**SF 3915 | HF 3898 Pesticide Provision:** Pesticides do not belong in Wild Rice waters, and our pesticide statutes governing this should be revised. Pesticides are not part of a healthy food system; these chemicals are poisoning the land, water, and our bodies. Restricting pesticide use in our Wild Rice waters is a major step in the right direction toward addressing this issue.

**SF 3748 | HF 3896 Responsible Boating Practices:** Irresponsible boating damages Wild Rice waters. We need restrictions to prevent the operation of motorized watercraft directly through uncultivated wild rice beds (except for hand-propelled boats, skiffs, or canoes), and for no-wake zones.

**SF 3749 | HF 3899 Recognition of Inherent Rights of Wild Rice:** The State of Minnesota should recognize the inherent right of Wild Rice to exist and thrive in our state! Wild Rice is a treaty-protected food and must be considered first, every time and for every permit, in our state.

**SF 3916 | HF 3897 Wild Rice Risk Justification:** Whenever a proposed project could harm Wild Rice waters, there should be a risk-justification process that includes tribal government input to assess how the project could cause harm.

**Uncultivated Wild Rice Is a Crucial Minnesota Economic Driver.** According to Earth Economics report *The Food That Grows on Water*, "the annual wild rice harvest results in \$12.5 million in expenditures, and the sale of hand-harvested *manoomin* supports more than \$19.2 million in annual income for tribal harvesters. The annual spending associated with *manoomin* harvesting (gas, equipment, supplies) supports about 153 local jobs, and the annual income generated by the sale of *manoomin* supports an additional 125 jobs." This past year the impacts of mass precipitation events on Wild Rice across our state were devastating; many ricing areas were washed out due to intense rainfall in the spring. We must work together to ensure this sacred plant remains an economic staple within our state.

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Wild rice was once abundant throughout Minnesota, but due to human activities it no longer flourishes, particularly in the southern part of the state. This decline in Wild Rice has led to a loss of cultural traditions for our Dakota relatives. Minnesota's pristine freshwater systems are home to the largest Wild Rice population in the United States. But Wild Rice is endangered as it faces mounting threats from invasive species, climate change, water pollution, and development. Together, we have the power to address the damage we've caused to our waters and restore Wild Rice to regions where it traditionally thrived.

The cultural, economic, and ecological significance of Wild Rice is irreplaceable. It must be safeguarded, ensuring that both current and future generations can continue to benefit from this sacred plant and the clean waters it requires. We, the undersigned organizations, strongly urge you to support this crucial legislation and work towards its passage with bipartisan unity. By doing so, we protect a legacy that nourishes both people and the land.

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Jean Ross | Vote Climate

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John Stoez | Repair Communities for Makoce Ikikcupi

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Tracy Molm and Whitney Wildman | Climate Justice Committee

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Beth Tammincn | Climate Action Team, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth  
Kelley Skumautz | Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate  
Robert Scheierl | Wes Libbey Northern Lakes Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America  
Annie Contractor | Rural Progress

Ruth Dalager Buck | Grace University Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

Craig Sterle | MN Division of the Izaak Walton League of America Chapter

Julie O'Leary | Izzak Walton League of America-W.J. McCabe Chapter

Bridgette Weber | Axis Mundi Catering

Theresa Halverson-Lee | Department of Indian Work

# OUR TEAM

**Niki Bohne**  
*Director Of Finance & Administration*

**Libby London**  
*Communications Director*

**Sam Chadwick**  
*Associate Director*

**Ingrid Lyons**  
*Executive Director*

**Alex Falconer**  
*Federal Government Affairs Manager*

**Matt Norton**  
*Policy & Science Director*

**Gillian Fitzgerald**  
*City Community Organizer*

**Kelsey Polcher**  
*Development Director*

**Corinne Garber**  
*Monitoring Program Assistant*

**Lisa Pugh**  
*Water Quality Monitoring Program Manager*

**Amanda Hefner**  
*State Manager*

**Lacey Squier**  
*Boundary Waters Connect Manager*

**Maddie Holman**  
*Individual Gifts Officer*

**Kaitlynn Swanlund**  
*Metro Regional Organizer*

**Ben Karigaard**  
*Duluth Organizing Fellow*

**Megan Wind**  
*Creative Content Manager*

**Jess Kulik**  
*Office Administrative Coordinator*

**Amy Yoelin**  
*Development Officer*

*A special thanks to our 2024 former staff and interns:  
Lucy Trotter, Thompson Blodgett, Andrew Gordon, Keely Spens, Ian Samuelson, and Judson Dasno.*

