

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/11/2024 2:03:55 PM

First name: Anon

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for the federal purchase of the 80,000 acres of state school trust lands within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), along with the additional 3,200 acres of land in St. Louis County that is included in this purchase proposal.

A federal purchase would significantly enhance the management and protection of the BWCAW as a designated Wilderness area. By securing these lands under federal oversight, the likelihood of future development by state or county governments is eliminated, ensuring the enduring preservation of this national treasure. Additionally, this step would streamline the administration of the BWCAW, allowing for greater conservation efficiency.

Moreover, analysis from sources such as the Timberjay newspaper has shown that a federal purchase would deliver substantially greater financial benefits to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than a land exchange. This aligns with the broader public interest in safeguarding both our natural heritage and our state's fiscal health.

Finally, I would like to address recent claims by some local legislators that question the legality of such a federal purchase. The purchase is entirely within the scope of the law, as permitted by the Weeks Act. Congress, through the creation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, explicitly envisioned such transactions for the purpose of conserving valuable landscapes like the BWCAW.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important matter. I urge you to move forward with the federal purchase to protect this irreplaceable wilderness for future generations.