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Title:

Comments: In the late 1960s as a Girl Scout from Pennsylvania, I participated in a Boundary Waters canoe trip national event. That trip was a memorable one that I will never forget, and it was my first experience in a true wilderness. I returned a couple of years later with friends for another fantastic experience. I have always hoped that the Boundary Waters would always be there for me and others. Sadly, in later years, I kept hearing about relentless threats by mining interests to this amazing place. So I support this land purchase by the federal government. It will serve the cause of wilderness preservation into the future for the benefit of nature, including humans.

The federal land purchase package of 80,000 acres of state school trust lands inside the BWCAW, and 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land would be a benefit to the people of the United States and the ecosystems contained within, and should happen. It is a great opportunity to protect these often-contested lands.

A federal purchase will streamline administration and protection of the BWCAW as a Wilderness, prevent future development by state or county governments, and provide greater income and benefit to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund.

Local legislators are promoting the concerns of industries that would despoil the Wilderness, and their claim that the plan is illegal is baseless. Furthermore, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes as this.

Thank you.