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First name: Jonas

Last name: Mueller-Gastell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I fully support the federal purchase of the 80,000 acres of state school trust lands within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), along with the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land included in the proposal. This action will enhance the ability to manage and protect the BWCAW as a pristine wilderness, benefiting both the environment and future generations.

By facilitating a federal purchase, local governments will benefit from more efficient land management, allowing them to focus on other priorities while ensuring these lands are preserved and protected. Additionally, analyses, including those from the Timberjay newspaper, have shown that this approach would provide greater long-term revenue for Minnesota's Permanent School Fund compared to a land exchange.

This solution also aligns with federal law, as the Weeks Act allows for such purchases, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund exists precisely to support important conservation efforts like this one. By supporting this purchase, we are ensuring a positive outcome for the state's natural resources and local economies alike.