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Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am fully in support of the federal purchase of the 80,000 acres of state school trust lands inside the BWCAW, as well as the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land included in the land purchase package. The purchase of these parcels by the federal government will further protect the BWCAW as a Wilderness. It will also increase the efficiency of administering the Wilderness and will prevent any potential future development of these lands by state or county governments.

Analyses of this proposal indicate that the federal purchase will provide more income to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than a land exchange would provide. And despite assertions by local legislators, the federal purchase is legal under the Weeks Act. Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for purchases such as these.