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Comments: I support the federal purchase of the 80,000 acres of state school trust lands inside the BWCAW, and the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land included in the land purchase package. I grew up in Northern Indiana but every summer we drove up to Ely, Minnesota to put our canoes in the lakes at the Boundary Waters Canoe Area for a one-week long trip. I have cherished memories dipping my tin cup into the lakes on the side of the canoe and drinking it, not to mention shore lunches of fried potato slices and freshly caught walleye, northern pike, and smallmouth bass.

Federal protection is essential to protecting the wilderness from future development and a federal purchase will provide far more income to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than would a land exchange, according to analyses by the local Timberjay newspaper and others. A federal purchase is legal under the Weeks Act despite false claims by state legislators who are in the pockets of real estate developers. Furthermore, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes.