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Comments: I'm writing in support of the federal purchase of 80,000 acres of school trust land within the 1.1-million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in the Superior National Forest in Minnesota.

It's my understanding that this would make the administration and protection of this area more efficient and would provide more income to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than a land exchange would.

It's also my understanding that the opposition to this is springing from Republicans, in this case ones who assert--erroneously--that this move is illegal. Under the Weeks Act, it is perfectly legal. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, created by Congress, was created for instances just like this.

Republicans or otherwise, I am frustrated by this constant trend of wanting to develop wilderness areas. It always seems to be for a short-term, dollar gain, but the support to the eco systems which are needed to keep us all alive would be lost forever.

This is a time to fight for the conservation of imperiled lands, and if the proposed move to purchase the lands results in a benefit for the schools, then that's a double-win.

Thank you for considering my views.