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Comments: As someone who has canoed in the boundary waters of northern Minnesota, and and someone who has a deep appreciation for public school funding, I wish to express my support of 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.

A federal purchase will increase the efficiency of administering and protecting the BWCAW as a Wilderness, and prevent future state or county governments from developing these lands.

A federal purchase will provide far more income to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than would a land exchange, according to analyses by a local newspaper and others.

Unlike the assertions of the local legislators, a federal purchase is perfectly legal under the Weeks Act.

Furthermore, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes, and funds are available to proceed with this plan.

This change in land ownership, and therefore the management of the region is a win-win-win for all parties (except perhaps those who want to despoil the boundary waters by extracting minerals or timber). I hope that this land sale can proceed.

Thank you.