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Comments: I support the federal acquisition of the 80,000 acres of state school trust lands within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) and the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land included in the purchase package.

This federal acquisition will streamline the administration and protection of the BWCAW as a Wilderness Area and safeguard these lands from future development by state or county governments. Analysis from the Timberjay newspaper and other sources shows that a federal purchase would yield considerably more revenue for Minnesota's Permanent School Fund compared to a land exchange.

Despite claims from some local legislators, a federal purchase is entirely legal under the Weeks Act. Furthermore, the Land and Water Conservation Fund was created by Congress specifically for this type of acquisition.