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Comments: On August 15, a group of five local Republican state legislators wrote a letter to the DNR opposing the purchase, and instead pushing-again-for a land exchange. This claim is a wild one, in fact, IT'S INSANELY STUPID! Trying to assert that a purchase is illegal and would violate the 1964 Wilderness Act is ridiculous! WE aren't as dumb! This is absurd and it's insulting to our intelligence! It will not be tolerated now or ever!

I support the federal purchase proposal 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.

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

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.

This federal purchase will also 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.

Think again Republicans,

Rita Lemkuil