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Comments: I support the federal purchase of the 80,000 acres of state school trust lands inside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) in the Superior National Forest in Minnesota, as well as the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land included in the land purchase package.

I believe that 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. In addition, 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.

And, furthermore, a federal purchase is perfectly legal under the Weeks Act, unlike what some local legislators have asserted. In fact, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes.