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Organization:

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Comments: AS two caring and concerned people, my husband and I are writing because we support 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.

Wilderness is a gift that we must protect. Such a federal purchase will increase the efficiency of administering and protecting the BWCAW as a Wilderness. Beyond this, prevent future state or county governments from developing these lands.

Beyond this, it is well known that a federal purchase will provide far more income to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than would a land exchange. This is according to analyses by the local Timberjay newspaper and others.

Local legislators have made false claims about this. The truth is that a federal purchase is perfectly legal under the Weeks Act. Furthermore, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes.

FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF MINNESOTA'S WILDERNESS AND ITS PEOPLE, THIS FEDERAL PURCHASE MUST BE SUPPORTED.