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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 as well as the 3,200 acres of St. Louis County land included in the land purchase package. This purchase is necessary to protect the integrity of this natural area.

We need to step in whenever possible to protect wilderness areas from commercial development in order to leave natural areas for scientific study and nature experiences for future generations. A federal purchase act to protect and increase the efficiency of administering and protecting such areas offers the opportunity to act on behalf of BWCAW now. Such steps should be taken to prevent state or county governments from developing these lands at a future point in time.

Upon investigation it appears that this solution is the most efficacious. It is my understanding that a federal purchase will provide far more income to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund than would a land exchange. It is also my understanding that such a federal purchase is perfectly legal. Since Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund for just such purposes, it stands to reason that these funds should be utilized to protect the BWCAW.