



Take Action - Stop the Land Exchange!
Harmful to the BWCAW, SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST and LAKE SUPERIOR Watershed



Minnesota's Arrowhead Region Under Threat

ALERT!

Bad Deal for the Nation and Minnesota's School Children, Good Deal for the Mining Companies
Too Secretive for Public Scrutiny
The Dismantling of Superior National Forest is Being Legislated Without Public Input or Participation

Rep. Cravaack Giving Away Superior National Forest to Multinational Mining Corporations!

Will Senators Franken, and Klobuchar Do the Same?

ACTION ALERT! Representative Cravaack Introduces H.R. 5544 Special Favors Bill For Foreign Mining Interests

- ✓ ***Bill Will Fast Track a Land Exchange For the Benefit of Multinational Mining Corporations***
- ✓ ***Tens of Thousands of Acres of Protected SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST Lands Will Lose their Federal Protections in Order to Be Strip Mined!***
- ✓ ***Legislation Would Be a Windfall to PolyMet, Teck Cominco, Twin Metals and Other Mining Companies Seeking to Turn Minnesota's Arrowhead into a Sulfide Mining District***

Just Say "No" Please ask Senators Franken and Klobuchar to refrain from introducing ANY kind of school trust land exchange legislation within the U.S. Senate

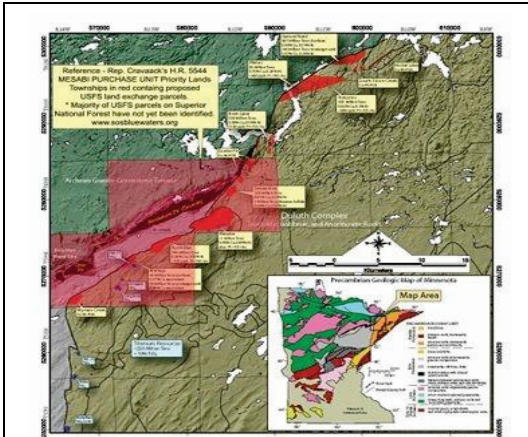
* Let them know that you oppose any legislation designed to bypass and circumvent Federal environmental laws, which includes public review and citizen input.

* Too secretive for general public scrutiny. The so-called hybrid land exchange compromise was developed by a legislative committee, that included the mining interests.

* Missing in the legislative fast tracking is **Native American Tribal consultation**, as well as any public input or participation - and right of appeal.

H.R. 5544: Minnesota Education Investment and Employment Act

Link to [H.R. 5544](#)



H.R.5544/S.F.1750 Mesabi Purchase Unit township parcels

Click on image or [See Map](#)

* **Majority of USFS parcels on Superior National Forest have not yet been identified**

Oppose H.R. 5544 which mandates and expedites the transfer of tens of thousands of acres of protected National Forest lands into state management intended to maximize revenue generation. Removing these lands from Federal administration would result in the loss of important protections, including the Weeks Act and other Acts prohibition against strip mining and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and appeal process. The underlying purpose of this bill would be to benefit mining companies by removing Federal protections and eluding steps in the standard land exchange process which includes public comment and participation, Native American Tribal consultation, environmental review and appeal.

Included in H.R.5544 are parcels designated in Minnesota SF 1750, with priority to the Mesabi Purchase Unit. Changing these parcels from Federal to State ownership would be a strip mining give-away to mining companies currently exploring for copper-nickel sulfide deposits: **PolyMet, Teck Cominco, Twin Metals, Encampment Resources**, etc.

See [BWCAW - SNF Land Exchange Legislation Fact Sheet](#)

Stop the give-away of Superior National Forest being proposed in the name of our children!

Please Contact: Senators [Franken](#) and [Klobuchar](#), and [U.S. Representatives](#) immediately, and ask them to oppose any kind of special favors land exchange legislation

H.R. 5544's Purpose is to Remove Federal Protections on Superior National Forest Lands

If passed, the result of H.R 5544 would be the loss of many tens of thousands of acres of Superior National Forest land that would instead be managed by the State of Minnesota for maximum revenue generation. Lands that lie within a designated National Forest and are owned by the Federal government have a variety of critical protections, including:

- * The [National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\)](#) provides a process for public input by affected citizens and environmental review to evaluate and determine whether an action is in the public interest.
- * The [Weeks Act](#) and other Acts protect National Forest lands against surface destruction such as strip mining and protects the headwaters of rivers and watersheds in perpetuity. The National Forest lands were designated for watershed protection and to secure the maintenance of a perpetual growth of forest.
- * **Section 7** of the [Endangered Species Act \(ESA\)](#) requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to consult with proposed projects on National Forest land to ensure ESA compliance.
- * The [Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act of 1978](#) specifically requires that the BWCA be protected from the environmental impacts associated with mineral development "to the maximum extent possible".
- * The legislation bypasses and ignores [Native American Tribal](#) rights and is contrary to laws, policies and Executive Orders requiring government - to - government consultation on issues related to Federal actions.

Will Senators Franken and Klobuchar Put Corporate Profits Above the People, Land, Water and Wildlife of the Arrowhead?

It is probable that Senators Franken and Klobuchar do not wish to leave behind as part of their Senatorial legacy the dismantling of Superior National Forest and degradation of the BWCAW and Lake Superior watersheds. A far better choice would be a complete sale of state lands within the BWCAW to the Federal government, thus generating money for the school trust fund without destroying our natural treasures for future generations of school children. Alternatively the school trust could collect a percent of the BWCAW user fee currently charged to wilderness visitors by the U.S. Forest Service. With the BWCAW user fee scenario, the State would continue to own the land in the Boundary Waters and would continue to have a voice in management decisions. The history of sulfide mining is one of toxic environmental degradation with no evidence that mining for copper, nickel, and other non-ferrous metals in the water-rich environment of northeast Minnesota can be done without harming our water resources, our health, and the ecology of our land.

Please phone & e-mail Senators [Franken](#) and [Klobuchar](#) and ask them to oppose any kind of special favors land exchange legislation that benefits multinational mining corporations

Senator Franken:

(202) 224-5641 (D.C. office)
(651) 221-1016 (St. Paul office)

Senator Klobuchar:

(202) 224-3244 (D.C. office)
(612) 727-5220 (Minneapolis office)

More Information Here:

Click to see [BWCAW - SNF Land Exchange Legislation Fact Sheet](#) Action Alert on the [WEB](#)

[Minneapolis Star Tribune Editorial: Scrutiny needed on BWCA swap - Boundary Waters land deal would mostly benefit industry](#) **Star Tribune Editorial**

[Don't give lands to mining companies in the name of schoolchildren](#) **MinnPost.com**

[Minnesota's 8th District Congressman Chip Cravaack invents his own definition of truth](#) **Duluth Reader**

Save Our Sky Blue Waters www.sosbluewaters.org

Save Lake Superior Association www.savelakesuperior.org

Friends of the Cloquet Valley State Forest www.friendscvssf.org

