



**FOREST LAKE AREA SCHOOLS
FOREST LAKE, MN 55025**

January 4, 2018

AGENDA ITEM: 11.2

TOPIC: RESOLUTION FOR SCHOOL TRUST LANDS

BACKGROUND:

MSBA is requesting Minnesota school boards to pass a resolution supporting a plan by the School Trust Lands. This plan would swap current School Trust Land in the BWCAW for forest land in St. Louis County. The current trust land in the BWCAW does not generate any revenues for Minnesota public schools. The St. Louis County land, through this arrangement, would generate revenue for Minnesota public schools.

PROCESS:

Recently, a three-step Plan B has been proposed to accomplish this plan.

- (1) The Conservation Fund would purchase private forest lands in St. Louis County.
- (2) The Conservation Fund would exchange the parcels for School Trust Lands located in the BWCAW.
- (3) The US Forest Service (USFS) would buy the former School Trust Lands from the Conservation Fund with funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

MSBA supports a combination of land sale and exchange to transfer School Trust Lands located in the BWCAW to the USFS, using this plan model to ensure that thousands of acres of private forest land in northern Minnesota will be transferred to the School Trust. This plan is an alternative that provides for a continued source of revenue for Minnesota schools, allowing for a sustained yield and stable employment for industries, and providing thousands of acres of land for public recreation.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval