



**Range Association of  
Municipalities and Schools**

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3/10/25

Representative Roger Skraba  
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: RAMS Letter of Support for HF1425 (Skraba)**

Representative Skraba,

The Range Association of Municipalities and Schools, representing 27 cities, 29 townships, and 15 school districts, in the 7-county region of Northeastern MN, wishes to communicate our support for your bill, HF1425 (Skraba), prohibiting the sale of state-owned land in Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

We believe that the best interest of the state of MN, the school trust, and the school districts and municipalities of the Iron Range would be served by a land exchange, not a sale-only, as currently proposed, which disregards previous land package deals and work of a generation of Iron Range legislators and communities.

This bill would allow our state to reset the conversation on the land exchange, an outcome which would generate more income for the school trust, local investment, and serve the region well by consolidating, not expanding the federal footprint.

We are concerned that the Minnesota DNR withdrew its participation in the EIS for the land exchange and feel that it was not in the best economic development interest of northern Minnesota, where a large portion of land is held in public hands. We prefer a transaction that includes a land exchange. Doing so would honor the historical and ongoing efforts by members of various state and federal administrations, as well as decades of work by Iron Range lawmakers.

Sincerely,

**Paul Peltier**

Executive Director

Approved by the RAMS Board 2/27/25

*Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS) The organization represents more than 155,000 residents and 70 public sector units of government, including 27 cities, 28 townships, and 15 public school districts the 13,000 square mile Taconite Assistance Area (TAA) of northeast Minnesota. As an organization, RAMS has represented the interests of the Iron Range region for 85 years*

