

August 13, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 1526 - Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Minnesota. This bill increases the existing appropriation authorization for land acquisition in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area from \$4,500,000 to \$9,000,000.

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area is a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System located within the Superior National Forest in northeastern Minnesota. The area comprises over one million acres of forest land which contains numerous lakes and rivers.

Under existing law, the Secretary of Agriculture has acquired some 60,000 acres of private land within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area to protect it from undesirable use and development. Some 21,500 acres remain to be acquired if the area is to be fully protected.

The bill will authorize use of monies from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and it would also provide for payment of condemnation awards. Finally, it would require the Secretary to make annual reports to Congress (1977-1980) concerning the land acquisition program, with the final report indicating whether or not additional funds are needed.

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