

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

**CONCILIATION
AGREEMENT**

In the Matter of Rob Ecklund for 3A Rep (17871);

1. The Rob Ecklund for 3A Rep committee is the principal campaign committee of Rob Ecklund (the candidate). Rep. Ecklund ran in the special election to fill the vacancy in House District 3A. On its 2015 special-election-cycle-end Report of Receipts and Expenditures, the committee reported accepting \$3,525 in contributions from registered lobbyists and \$9,475 in contributions from political committees and funds. The total amount of these contributions exceeded the \$12,500 limit on aggregate special source contributions for the special election cycle by \$500. The \$500 that exceeded the limit was not returned within 90 days and was therefore deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.

2. The committee treasurer informed Board staff that although he photocopies every contribution check before deposit and promptly uses those copies to enter the contributions into the Campaign Finance Reporter software, he inadvertently overlooked one \$500 contribution from a political committee and did not enter it into the software. The committee therefore exceeded the special source limit. The committee has returned the excess \$500 contribution to the political committee.

3. Board records indicate that this is the first instance in which the committee reported the acceptance of contributions that exceeded the special source limit. The committee registered with the Board on August 21, 2015.

4. The parties agree that the committee accepted excessive contributions from special sources in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, during the special election cycle.

5. To resolve this matter informally, and to avoid these violations in the future, the candidate and the committee agree that they will:

- a. Ensure that the committee treasurer reviews and enters contributions into the Campaign Finance Reporter software within 60 days of receipt;
- b. Run a batch compliance report after each time contributions are entered and take steps to remedy any violations the software identifies so that problems may be resolved within the 90 days that statutes provide for the return of a contribution before it is deemed accepted; and
- c. Update the Campaign Finance Reporter software whenever the software notifies the user that an update is available.

6. The candidate agrees that the Board's acceptance of this agreement constitutes the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of \$500 against the candidate for accepting contributions in excess of the limit imposed by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11. \$125 of the penalty is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties and \$375 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2017. If the committee violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, before January 1, 2017,

