

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

**CONCILIATION
AGREEMENT**

In the Matter of Lobbyist Vernae Hasbargen (Former Registration No. 8489);

1. A routine staff review by the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board of the Committee to Elect Gordy Wagner's 2014 pre-primary-election Report of Receipts and Expenditures identified a contribution which, as reported, constituted a violation of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 10A.
2. The Committee to Elect Gordy Wagner (the Committee) reported that on April 14, 2014, it received a contribution from Vernae Hasbargen in the amount of \$250. Ms. Hasbargen was, at that time, a lobbyist registered with the Board. April 14, 2014, was during the 2014 regular session of the Minnesota legislature, a time when Ms. Hasbargen was prohibited from making a contribution to the Committee.
3. Ms. Hasbargen provided the Board with a copy of the check used to return the contribution. The contribution was returned on October 16, 2014. However, the prohibited contribution was not returned within the 90-day period within which a contribution may be returned to avoid a violation and is therefore deemed accepted.
4. Ms. Hasbargen forwarded to the Board a message from the Committee's treasurer indicating that her lobbyist registration number of 8489 was written on the check's memo line; however, the registration number was not identified as a lobbyist registration number. The treasurer indicated in his communication that he did not know the significance of the number. Ms. Hasbargen also explained that the candidate, Mr. Wagner, personally called her about the contribution when the Committee received the check because it triggered her name as a potential lobbyist match in the Board's Campaign Finance Reporter software. Ms. Hasbargen informed Mr. Wagner that she had terminated her registration and was no longer a lobbyist. However, Ms. Hasbargen was mistaken about the date on which she terminated her registration with the Board. Ms. Hasbargen terminated her lobbyist registration with the Board on May 19, 2014, and was therefore still a lobbyist at the time the contribution was made.
5. To resolve this matter informally, and to avoid these violations in the future, Ms. Hasbargen agrees that, should she re-register as a lobbyist with the Board, she will refrain from making prohibited sessional contributions.
6. Ms. Hasbargen agrees that the Board's acceptance of this agreement constitutes the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of \$250 against her for making a contribution in

violation of Minnesota Statute section 10A.273, subdivision 1. \$50 of the penalty is due within 30 days of the date this agreement is signed by both parties. \$200 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2017. If Ms. Hasbargen re-registers with the Board and violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.273, subdivision 1 before January 1, 2017, the stayed portion of the civil penalty is due immediately. If Ms. Hasbargen does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.273, subdivision 1 before January 1, 2017, the stayed portion of the civil penalty is waived.

7. If Ms. Hasbargen does not comply with the provisions of this agreement, this matter may be reopened by the Board and the Board may take such actions as it deems appropriate.

/s/ Vernae Hasbargen Dated: 11/29/2014
Vernae Hasbargen

/s/ Gary Goldsmith Dated: 11/18/2014
Gary Goldsmith, Executive Director
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Agreement approved by Board at meeting of November 18, 2014

/s/ Deanna Wiener
Deanna Wiener, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board