

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

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Nelson (Carla) for Senate committee (17105);

1. The Nelson (Carla) for Senate committee is the principal campaign committee of Senator Carla Nelson. The aggregate special source contribution limit, which includes contributions from lobbyists, political committees and funds, and associations not registered with the Board, was \$6,600 for Senate candidates during the 2017-2018 election cycle segment. In a letter to Board staff dated January 25, 2019, the committee's accountant, Bill Nietz, reported that the committee inadvertently accepted contributions in excess of the aggregate special source limit. The \$540 that the committee received that exceeded the limit was not returned within 90 days of being deposited and is therefore deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
2. Mr. Nietz provided photocopies of checks issued by the committee on January 16, 2019, returning a total of \$540 to three special source contributors.
3. Mr. Nietz stated that the committee was not aware that it had received contributions in excess of the aggregate special source limit until January 2019 because in 2018, contributions were not being entered into the Campaign Finance Reporter software in a timely manner.
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 2017-2018 election cycle segment. This is the committee's first violation of the aggregate special source limit.
5. To avoid a similar violation in the future, the committee agrees to:
 - a. Ensure that the committee's treasurer reviews and enters contributions into the Campaign Finance Reporter software within 60 days of receipt; and
 - 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 provided by statute for the return of a contribution before it is deemed accepted.
6. The committee agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty of \$540, the amount of the violation, for accepting contributions in excess of the limit imposed by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11. Of this amount, \$135 is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. The remaining \$405 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until

April 1, 2021. If the committee violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, before April 1, 2021, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the committee does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, before April 1, 2021, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

7. The committee also agrees to provide to the Board, within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties, copies of the deposited checks or other documentation showing that \$540 was received by the special source contributors to which it was returned.

8. If the committee 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/ Carla Nelson
Senator Carla Nelson
Nelson (Carla) for Senate

Dated: May 6, 2019

/s/ Margaret Leppik
Margaret Leppik, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: May 1, 2019