

STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

CONCILIATION
AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Connie Doepke Volunteer Committee (#16784);

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.28, subdivision 3, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board and Representative Connie Doepke (hereinafter referred to as “the Candidate”) hereby agree as follows:

1. The Connie Doepke Volunteer Committee (“the Committee”) is the principal campaign committee of Representative Connie Doepke. In 2009, the Committee accepted aggregate contributions from party units in the amount of \$1,500. This amount exceeds the \$1,000 non-election year limit on contributions from party units and terminating principal campaign committees, set out in Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.27, subdivision 2, by \$500.

2. The 2009 non-election year contribution limit from an individual to a state representative candidate is \$100, as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.27, subdivision 1(a)(5). The Committee accepted cumulative contributions in excess of \$100 from three individual contributors. The contributions from the three individuals exceeded the applicable contribution limit by a total of \$200. The excess contributions were not returned within 60 days as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.15, subdivision 3.

3. In a letter dated March 1, 2010, Denise Plechash, treasurer, states "...the overages were not noticed until we rebuilt and eventually replaced our computer system after our data was lost due to a series of separate system crashes. The timing and nature of these technical problems was at the root of our not having noticed the overages. Specifically, our system originally crashed just before receiving the donations that we eventually realized had exceeded the annual limits."

4. Ms. Plechash further states that they retrieved data from the "My Documents" folder of the inoperable computer (which is the most common location for user data), but because Campaign Finance Reporter data is not stored in that location, the data was not retrieved.

5. Board records show that this is the first calendar year in which the Committee reported acceptance of contributions in excess of either the applicable party unit contribution limit or the individual contribution limit. The Committee registered with the Board on June 10, 2008.

6. The parties agree that the Committee accepted cumulatively-excessive contributions from political party units and individuals in calendar year 2009 resulting in an inadvertent violation of Minnesota Statutes, Section 10A.27, subdivisions 1(a) and 2.

7. The Committee has returned \$500 to a political party unit that contributed to the committee in calendar year 2009. The Committee has returned a total of \$200 to the individuals who contributed in excess of \$100. Copies of the checks used to return the excess amount have been provided to the Board.

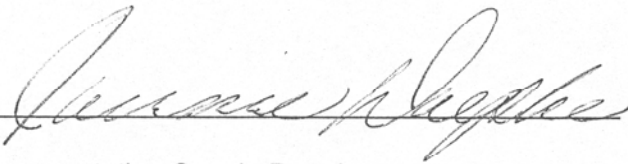
8. The Board recognizes the Committee's reliance on the Campaign Finance Reporter software and that the storage location for committee data contributed to the Committee's not recovering the data. The Committee recognizes its contribution to the problem by its failure to regularly backup its data.

9. The Committee agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$350 to be paid to the Board for deposit in the general fund of the state. The Committee recognizes that this is a reduction from the usual penalty agreed to in similar matters, which is one times the amount by which the contributions from political party units and individual contributors exceeded the applicable limit, and which would be \$700 in this matter. The Committee understands that the Board's willingness to accept this reduced penalty is based on the Committee's use of the Campaign Finance Reporter software and its contribution to allowing this violation to go undetected.

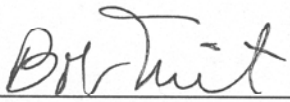
10. The Candidate hereby agrees to forward to the Board \$350 by check or money order payable to the STATE OF MINNESOTA within 30 days after the date this Agreement is signed by both parties. It is agreed by the parties that payment of the civil penalty of \$350 and this Conciliation Agreement will be a bar to any civil proceeding under Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.28, subdivisions 3 and 4.

11. It is further understood and agreed, however, that if the civil penalty of \$350 is not paid within the time specified in paragraph 10 above, the terms of this conciliation agreement will be violated and the Board may declare this agreement to be null and void and may take further action to resolve this matter.

12. It is further understood and agreed that this Agreement is confidential until signed by the Candidate and the Board Chair; the signed Agreement then shall become a matter of public record, and the statutory requirement of confidentiality shall no longer apply. Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.02, subdivision 11 and section 10A.28, subdivision 3.

 Dated: 4/10/10
Representative Connie Doepke

Approved by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

By  Dated: April 6, 2010

Bob Milbert, Chair

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board