

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

**CONCILIATION
AGREEMENT**

In the Matter of Pipe Fitters Local 539 (Reg. No. 30239);

1. A routine staff review by the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board of the Pipe Fitters Local 539's 2016 pre-primary-election Report of Receipts and Expenditures identified a contribution which, as reported, constituted a violation of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 10A.
2. The Pipe Fitters Local 539 political fund (the Fund) reported that, on April 7, 2016, it made a \$500 contribution to the Todd Podgorski for State Senate campaign committee. Pipe Fitters Local 539 is a political fund registered with the Board and Todd Podgorski for State Senate is a principal campaign committee registered with the Board. April 7, 2016, was during the 2016 regular session of the Minnesota legislature, a time when the Fund was prohibited from making contributions to principal campaign committees.
3. In an email to the Board on August 18, 2016, the Podgorski campaign committee confirmed the contribution and informed the Board that the contribution was a mistake that resulted from the committee soliciting the contribution during the prohibited period.
4. The campaign committee returned the prohibited contribution to the Fund on August 18, 2016. This date is more than 90 days after the contribution was deposited and therefore did not clear the violation.
5. To resolve this matter informally, and to avoid these violations in the future, the Fund agrees that it will:
 - a. Not make contributions to candidates for state office during regular sessions of the Minnesota legislature;
 - b. Continue to file reports with the Board using the Campaign Finance Reporter software; and,
 - c. Ensure that the Fund's treasurer reviews and enters contributions into the Campaign Finance Reporter software within 60 days of receipt and runs and reviews a batch compliance report after each data entry session. Contributions reviewed and entered within this timeframe will allow the Fund to detect violations of the campaign finance laws and also provide the Fund with 30 days to return a contribution to its source before it is deemed accepted.

6. The Fund agrees that the Board's acceptance of this agreement constitutes the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of \$500 against the Fund for making a contribution to a principal campaign committee in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.273, subdivision 2. A payment of \$125 is due within 30 days of the date this agreement is signed by both parties. The remaining \$375 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2018. If the Fund violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.273, subdivision 2, before January 1, 2018, the stayed portion of the civil penalty is due immediately. If the Fund does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.273, subdivision 2, before January 1, 2018, the stayed portion of the civil penalty is waived.

7. If the Fund 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/ Russell Scherber Dated: 9/12/16
Russell Scherber, Treasurer
Pipe Fitters Local 539

/s/ Jeff Sigurdson Dated: 9/7/16
Jeff Sigurdson, Executive Director
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Agreement approved by Board at meeting of September 7, 2016

/s/ Daniel Rosen
Daniel N. Rosen, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board