

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

**CONCILIATION AGREEMENT**

In the matter of the Lang (Andrew) for Senate 17 committee (17994);

1. The Lang (Andrew) for Senate 17 committee is the principal campaign committee of Senator Andrew Lang. 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. The committee's 2017 and 2018 year-end reports of receipts and expenditures disclosed a combined total of \$8,175 in special source contributions. The \$1,575 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. The committee's treasurer, Patricia Rauenhorst, stated that a total of \$1,575 would be returned to nine political committees and funds that gave a contribution to the Lang committee in 2017 or 2018.
3. Ms. Rauenhorst used the Board's Campaign Finance Reporter software and appears to have entered contributions received by the committee in a timely manner. However, Ms. Rauenhorst did not fully understand the features of the software which are designed to alert treasurers to potential violations of contribution limits. Also, Ms. Rauenhorst was not aware that potential violations of contribution limits could be remedied by returning excess contributions within 90 days of deposit pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
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 \$1,575, 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, \$395 is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. The remaining \$1,180 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2021. If the committee violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, before January 1, 2021, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the committee does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, before January 1, 2021, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

7. The committee also agrees to provide to the Board, within 90 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties, copies of the deposited checks or other documentation showing that at least \$1,575 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/ Andrew Lang  
Senator Andrew Lang  
Lang (Andrew) for Senate 17

Dated: July 8, 2019

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

Dated: June 5, 2019