

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

**CONCILIATION AGREEMENT**

In the matter of the Friends for Jeff Peterson committee (18301);

1. The Friends for Jeff Peterson committee is the principal campaign committee of candidate Jeff Peterson. The committee registered with the Board on April 3, 2018. The aggregate special source contribution limit, which includes contributions from lobbyists, political committees and funds, and associations not registered with the Board, was \$13,100 for a house committee during the 2017-2018 election cycle segment. On its amended 2018 year-end report of receipts and expenditures, the Peterson committee reported receiving \$13,230 from these sources during the 2017-2018 election cycle segment. The committee did not return the \$130 that exceeded the special source contribution limit within 90 days of deposit and those excess contributions therefore are deemed to be accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
2. In a response dated August 4, 2019, the committee treasurer explained that he mistakenly had entered the incorrect amount for a contribution from a political fund. As part of the 2018 reconciliation, both Board staff and the political fund notified the treasurer of this error. When the treasurer entered the correct amount of the contribution, the Peterson committee exceeded the special source limit. The Peterson committee has returned \$130 to a special source contributor.
3. 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 special source limit.
4. To avoid a similar violation in the future, the committee agrees to:
  - a. Ensure that the committee's treasurer reviews and correctly 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.
5. The committee also agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of \$130 for accepting contributions in excess of the limit imposed by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11. This amount is one times the amount of the excess contributions. Of the \$130, \$35 is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. The remaining \$95 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.

6. The committee further agrees to provide to the Board, within 90 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties, copies of the cancelled check or other documentation showing that the \$130 was received by the special source contributor to which it was returned.

7. 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/ Jeff Peterson Dated: 8/14/2019  
Jeff Peterson  
Friends for Jeff Peterson

/s/ Margaret Leppik Dated: August 14, 2019  
Margaret Leppik, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board