

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

**CONCILIATION AGREEMENT**

In the matter of lobbyist Denise Specht (2006);

1. The Minnesotans for Julie Blaha committee's 2021 year-end report of receipts and expenditures disclosed five contributions of \$25 each received during the time period spanning January 9 through May 9, 2021, from Denise Specht, who is a lobbyist registered with the Board. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.273, subdivision 1, prohibits a registered lobbyist from making a contribution to the principal campaign committee of a candidate for constitutional office during a regular session of the legislature and the legislature was in regular session on the dates the contributions were made.

2. Ms. Specht explained that she "had previously signed up for recurring payments through ActBlue, effectively annualizing a \$300 contribution. Unfortunately, I forgot that I had set those payments to continuously recur when session started last year, and so they simply continued." The Blaha committee has provided documentation showing that the contributions were refunded in February 2022. The contributions were not returned within 90 days of deposit and are therefore deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.

3. The parties agree that Ms. Specht made contributions to the principal campaign committee of a candidate for constitutional office during a regular session of the legislature in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.273, subdivision 1. This is Ms. Specht's first violation of the statute.

4. To avoid a similar violation in the future, Ms. Specht agrees to ensure that any of her recurring contributions are stopped before the start of a regular session of the legislature if the recipient is the principal campaign committee of any candidate for the legislature or for constitutional office, or a political committee or party unit established by the party organization within a house of the legislature.

5. Ms. Specht agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty of \$125, the amount of the violation, for making contributions to the principal campaign committee of a candidate for constitutional office during a regular session of the legislature. Payment is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties.

6. If Ms. Specht 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/ Denise Specht  
Denise Specht, Lobbyist

Dated: March 11, 2022

/s/ Faris Rashid  
Faris Rashid, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: March 2, 2022