

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

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Abeler (Jim) Volunteer Committee (17868)

1. The Abeler (Jim) Volunteer Committee is the principal campaign committee of Senator Jim Abeler. The aggregate special source contribution limit, which includes contributions from lobbyists, political committees and funds, and associations not registered with the Board, was \$21,800 for candidates for state senate during the 2021-2022 election cycle. The committee's amended 2021 and 2022 year-end reports of receipts and expenditures disclosed a combined total of \$22,023 in special source contributions. The \$223 in excess special source contributions was not returned within 90 days of deposit and is therefore deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
2. The treasurer for the committee explained that he mistakenly entered a \$500 contribution into the Board's Campaign Finance Reporter application as a \$250 contribution. After the committee learned of the error it filed an amended 2022 year-end report with the corrected contribution amount and when the correct amount was included, it put the committee over the aggregate limit by \$223.
3. The parties agree that the committee inadvertently accepted excessive contributions from special source contributors in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, during the 2021-2022 election cycle. The committee registered with the Board in 2015; this is the committee's first violation of the aggregate special source limit.
4. To avoid a similar violation in the future, the committee agrees that it will transition to using the Board's Campaign Finance Reporter Online application starting with the 2023 reporting year, ensure that the committee's treasurer reviews the amount of each contribution and enters contributions within 60 days of receipt, run appropriate batch compliance reports, and review and correct all compliance warnings.
5. The committee agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty of \$223, one times 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, \$100 is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. The remaining \$123 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2025. If the committee violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, before January 1, 2025, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the committee does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, before January 1, 2025, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

6. The committee also agrees to provide to the Board, within 60 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties, a copy of the deposited check or other documentation showing that \$223 has been returned to a special source contributor.

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/ Senator Jim Abeler
Senator Jim Abeler
Abeler (Jim) Volunteer Committee

Dated: August 9, 2023

/s/ George W. Soule
George W. Soule, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: August 9, 2023