

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

**FINDINGS REGARDING  
FRIENDS OF JIM OBERSTAR COMMITTEE**

**Procedural Background**

In response to an inquiry from the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (“the Board”), Carlotta Richard, treasurer, Friends of Jim Oberstar Committee, notified the Board that the Friends of Jim Oberstar Committee, an unregistered association, made a \$600 contribution to the Koochiching County DFL, a registered political party unit, without providing the required disclosure.

Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (b), prohibits an unregistered association from making a contribution to a registered political party unit, unless, at the time the contribution is made, the unregistered association provides a disclosure statement that meets the reporting requirements of Minn. Stat. §10A.20.

On May 11, 2005, Ms. Richard stated “Friends of Jim Oberstar did make a contribution of \$600 to Koochiching County DFL in calendar year 2004. Regretfully that contribution was not accompanied by the disclosure statement in lieu of registration as it should have been. I have now sent a copy of that statement in lieu of registration to Mr. Boyle with my request that it be attached to the Koochiching County DFL report as an amendment to that report.”

On May 20, 2005, the Friends of Jim Oberstar Committee provided the Board with a disclosure statement. However, the disclosure statement provided did not meet the reporting requirements of Minn. Stat. §10A.20.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session at its meeting on June 7, 2005. The Board’s decision was based on correspondence received from Mr. Cooney and Board records.

**Based on the record before it, the Board issues the following:**

**EVIDENTIARY FINDINGS**

1. There is evidence that the Friends of Jim Oberstar Committee inadvertently violated Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (b), when it made a contribution in excess of \$100 to a registered political party unit, the Koochiching County DFL, without providing the required disclosure at the time the contribution was made
2. There is no evidence that the contribution has been returned.
3. Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (b), provides that an unregistered association that makes a contribution in excess of \$100 without the required disclosure is subject to civil penalty of up to \$1,000.

**Based on the above Statement of the Evidence, the Board makes the following:**

**FINDINGS CONCERNING PROBABLE CAUSE**

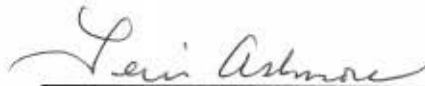
There is probable cause to believe that the Friends of Jim Oberstar Committee inadvertently violated Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (b), by making a contribution in excess of \$100 to a registered political party unit without providing the required disclosure.

**Based on the above Findings, the Board issues the following:**

**ORDER**

1. The Board imposes a civil penalty of \$1,000, two times the amount by which the contribution exceeded \$100, on the Friends of Jim Oberstar Committee for making a contribution in excess of \$100 without providing the required disclosure.
2. The Friends of Jim Oberstar Committee is directed to forward to the Board payment of the civil penalty of \$1,000 by check or money order payable to the State of Minnesota, within thirty days of the public posting of this order.
3. If the Friends of Jim Oberstar Committee does not comply with the provisions of this order, the Board's Executive Director shall refer this matter to the appropriate County Attorney for civil enforcement pursuant to Minn. Stat. §10A.28, subd.4.
4. The Board investigation of this matter is hereby made a part of the public records of the Board pursuant to Minn. Stat. §10A.02, subd. 11, and upon payment of the civil penalty imposed herein, this matter is concluded.

Dated: June 7, 2005



Terri Ashmore, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board