

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

**Findings and Order in the Matter of a  
Prohibited Contribution During the Regular 2006 Legislative Session  
By the HRCC (House Republican Campaign Committee)**

**Summary of Allegations and Responses**

In response to an inquiry Lee Birkhold, finance director, of the House Republican Campaign Committee (HRCC) notified the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board ("the Board") that the HRCC made a contribution on May 3, 2006, to the Friends of Austin Bless Committee. The amount of the contribution was \$1,000. The 2006 regular legislative session was held from March 1 to May 21, 2006.

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1 (b), prohibits a party unit established within a house of the legislature from making a contribution to a principal campaign committee during a regular legislative session. A party unit that violates this section is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the board of up to \$1,000.

Mr. Birkhold states, "...the HRCC inadvertently made a contribution to the Friends of Austin Bless committee on May 3, 2006, which was during the session. This contribution could have easily been made after session and was an innocent oversight."

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on October 17, 2006.

**Based on the above Summary of Allegations and Responses and Relevant Statutes, the Board makes the following:**

**Findings Concerning Probable Cause**

There is evidence that the HRCC, a registered party unit established within a house of the legislature, contributed \$1,000 to a principal campaign committee during the 2006 legislative session. The Board finds that there is probable cause to believe that the HRCC inadvertently violated Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1, clause b.

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

**Order**

1. For making a contribution to a candidate during the 2006 legislative session the Board orders the HRCC to pay a civil penalty of \$1,000, which is one times the amount of the contribution. This civil penalty must be paid within 30 days.

2. If the HRCC does not comply with the provisions of this order, the Board's Executive Director shall refer this matter to the Ramsey County Attorney for civil enforcement pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273.
3. The Board investigation of this matter is entered into the public record in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.02, subdivision 11, and upon payment by the HRCC of the civil penalties imposed herein, the matter is concluded.

Dated: October 17, 2006



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Bob Milbert, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

### Relevant Statutes

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1, clause b. **Contributions during legislative session.** A registered lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or dissolving principal campaign committee, or a party unit established by the party organization within a house of the legislature, must not make a contribution to a candidate for the legislature or for constitutional office, the candidate's principal campaign committee, or a political committee or party unit established by all or a part of the party organization within a house of the legislature during a regular session of the legislature.