

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

**Findings In The Matter of the Acceptance of
a Prohibited Contribution During the 2010 Legislative Session
by the Branden Petersen for State House Committee**

Summary of the Facts

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1(a), prohibits a candidate for a legislative office or the candidate's principal campaign committee from soliciting or accepting a contribution from a dissolving principal campaign committee during a regular legislative session. A candidate that violates this section is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000.

The 2010 pre-primary-election Report of Receipts and Expenditures filed with the Board by the Branden Petersen for State House Committee disclosed a \$200 contribution from the Kristopher Olson for House committee on February 26, 2010. The legislative session was held from February 4 through May 17, 2010.

By letter dated September 15, 2010, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board notified Branden Petersen of the statutory provision that appeared to be violated. A written response was not received.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on November 1, 2010. The Board's decision is based on the Report of Receipts and Expenditures filed by the Branden Peterson for State House Committee.

Based on the above Summary of the Facts and Relevant Statutes, the Board makes the following:

Finding Concerning Probable Cause

1. There is probable cause to believe that the Branden Petersen for State House Committee accepted a contribution from a dissolving principal campaign committee during the 2010 regular legislative session.

Based on the above Finding Concerning Probable Cause, the Board issues the following:

ORDER

1. The Board imposes a civil penalty of \$200, one times the amount of the prohibited contribution, on the Branden Petersen for State House Committee for acceptance of a contribution from a dissolving principal campaign committee during the regular session of the Minnesota Legislature in violation of Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1(a).

2. The Branden Petersen for State House Committee is also directed to forward \$200 to the Board for deposit into the general account of the state elections campaign fund. This action is in lieu of returning the prohibited contribution to the Kristopher Olson for House Committee, which no longer exists.
3. The Branden Petersen for State House Committee is directed to forward to the Board \$400 by check or money order payable to the State of Minnesota within 30 days of receipt of this order.
4. If the Branden Petersen for State House Committee does not comply with the provisions of this order, the Board's Executive Director may request that the Attorney General bring an action on behalf of the Board for the remedies available under Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.34.
5. The Board investigation of this matter is hereby made a part of the public records of the Board pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.02, subdivision 11, and upon payment by the civil penalty imposed herein, this matter is concluded.

Dated: November 1, 2010

/s/ Bob Milbert

Bob Milbert, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Relevant Statutes

1. Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1. **Contributions during legislative session.** (a) 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, must not solicit or accept a contribution from a registered lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or dissolving principal campaign committee, or from a party unit established by the party organization within a house of the legislature, during a regular session of the legislature.