

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

**FINDINGS REGARDING THE  
KOOCHICHING COUNTY DFL**

**Procedural Background**

In response to an inquiry from the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (“the Board”), Joseph Boyle, chair, Koochiching County DFL, notified the Board that the Koochiching County DFL, a registered political party unit, accepted a \$600 contribution from the Friends of Jim Oberstar Committee, an association that is not registered with the Board.

Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (a), prohibits a registered political party unit from accepting a contribution from an unregistered association unless, at the time the contribution was made, the unregistered association provides the recipient with the disclosure required by Minn. Stat. §10A.20.

On May 3, 2005, Joseph Boyle stated “we did receive from the Friends of Oberstar Committee \$600.00. The Koochiching County DFL did not realize that we could not receive those funds.”

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session in its meeting on June 7, 2005. The Board’s decision was based upon correspondence from Joseph Boyle and Board records.

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

**EVIDENTIARY FINDINGS**

1. There is evidence that the Koochiching County DFL inadvertently violated Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (a), when it accepted a contribution in excess of \$100 from the Friends of Jim Oberstar Committee., an unregistered association, without the required disclosure.
2. There is no evidence that this contribution was returned.
3. Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (c), provides that a political party unit that accepts a contribution from an unregistered association without the required disclosure is subject to civil penalty of up to four times the amount by which the contribution exceeded \$100.

**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 Koochiching County DFL inadvertently violated Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (a), by accepting a contribution in excess of \$100 from the Friends of Jim Oberstar Committee without the required disclosure.

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

**ORDER**

1. The Board directs the Koochiching County DFL to return \$500 to the Friends of Jim Oberstar Committee and to provide the Board with a copy of the check and accompanying letter returning the contribution within thirty days of the public posting of this order.
2. The Board imposes a civil penalty of \$500, one times the amount by which the contribution exceeded \$100, on the Koochiching County DFL, for accepting a contribution in excess of \$100 from an unregistered association without the disclosure required by Minn. Stat. §10A.20.
3. The Koochiching County DFL is directed to forward to the Board payment of the \$500 civil penalty, by check or money order payable to the State of Minnesota, within thirty days of receipt of this order.
4. If the Koochiching County DFL 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.
5. 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



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Terri Ashmore, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board