

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

**Findings In The Matter of the Acceptance of
a Prohibited Contribution During the 2009 Legislative Session
By Minnesotans for Matt (Entenza)**

Summary of the Facts

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

In a letter received June 9, 2009, Elizabeth Harens, on behalf of the Minnesotans for Matt (Entenza) Committee ("the Committee"), voluntarily notified the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board ("the Board") that the Committee accepted a \$500 contribution from a registered lobbyist on February 9, 2009, during the 2009 Legislative Session, which was held from January 6 through May 18, 2009.

Ms. Harens states "This error was discovered...following a survey of the Committee's database. ...The Committee takes full responsibility for an unintentional, but apparent compliance error. ...the Committee issued a contribution return to the lobbyist in question on June 5, 2009." Ms. Harens provided a copy of the check returning the contribution. Ms. Harens made a personal appearance at the July 7, 2009, Board meeting.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on July 7, 2009. The Board's decision was based upon the notification from Ms. Harens that a violation occurred.

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

Findings Concerning Probable Cause

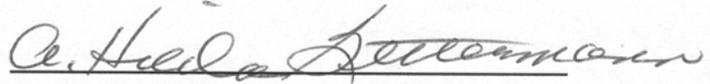
1. There is probable cause to believe that the Minnesotans for Matt (Entenza) Committee violated Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1(a), when it accepted a contribution from a registered lobbyist during the 2009 regular legislative session.
2. There is probable cause to believe that the contribution was not returned within 60 days as permitted in Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
3. There is no probable cause to believe that this violation was intentional or done with the intent to circumvent the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 10A.

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

ORDER

1. The Board imposes a civil penalty of \$500, one times the amount of the prohibited contribution, on the Minnesotans for Matt (Entenza) Committee for acceptance of a contribution from a registered lobbyist during the regular session of the Minnesota Legislature in violation of Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1(a).
2. The Minnesotans for Matt (Entenza) Committee is directed to forward to the Board payment of the civil penalty, by check or money order payable to the State of Minnesota within 30 days of receipt of this order.
3. If the Minnesotans for Matt (Entenza) 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.
4. 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: July 7, 2009



A. Hilda Betterman, 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.