## STATE OF MINNESOTA CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

#### Findings and Order In The Matter Of a Contribution Made By The (Damon) Dolton for State Representative Committee To Candidates Seeking Local Office

## Summary of the Facts

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 9, clause (d), prohibits contributions from a principal campaign committee to a candidate for a local political subdivision office (an office other than state legislature, judicial, or constitutional). There is no specified civil penalty for a principal campaign committee that violates this statute, but the amount of a prohibited contribution must be returned to the principal campaign committee.

The 2010 Year-End Report of Receipts and Expenditures filed by the (Damon) Dolton for State Representative Committee ("the Committee") itemized a \$500 contribution to the Pulkrabek for County Board Committee, and reported an additional \$100 in non-itemized contributions to candidates. County board is a local political subdivision office.

By letter dated February 10, 2011, Board staff notified Damon Dolton of the potential violation. Because Mr. Dolton had terminated the Committee in January of 2011, staff advised that funds recovered from local candidates should be submitted to the Board for deposit in the state general fund. With a response received by the Board on April 15, 2011, Mr. Dolton submitted a check for \$600 to replace the contributions made to candidates from his committee.

The matter was considered by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (the Board) in executive session on May 31, 2011. The Board's decision was based on the response from Mr. Dolton and Board records.

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

# Findings Concerning Probable Cause

- There is probable cause to believe that the (Damon) Dolton for State Representative Committee contributed \$600 to candidates seeking local political subdivision office in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 9, clause (d).
- 2. There is no probable cause to believe that this violation was done with the intent to violate the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 10A.

3. Damon Dolton has forwarded a check in the amount of \$600 for deposit in the general fund of the state to remedy the violations. The record in this matter and all correspondence is hereby entered into the public record in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.02, subdivision 11, this matter is closed.

Dated: May 31, 2011

/s/ John Scanlon\_

John Scanlon, Chair Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

# **Relevant Statute**

**Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 9, clause (d)** ...A candidate or the treasurer of a candidate's principal campaign committee must not make a contribution from the principal campaign committee to a candidate for political subdivision office in any state.