

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

**CONCILIATION  
AGREEMENT**

In the Matter of the Scoles Equipment Co.;

1. In an email to Board staff, the previous treasurer for the Joe McDonald for State Rep committee disclosed that the committee received a \$100 contribution from the business checking account of Scoles Equipment Co. The treasurer also indicated that the contribution was not returned within 90 days. A routine staff review by the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board was initiated because the contribution, as described, constituted a violation of the Minnesota Statutes.

2. Joe McDonald for State Rep is a principal campaign committee registered with the Board. An examination of business filings on the Secretary of State's website indicates that Scoles Equipment Co. is a Minnesota corporation. Corporations are prohibited from making contributions to principal campaign committees under Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15, subdivision 2.

3. Scoles Equipment Co. confirmed that a contribution had been made to Joe McDonald for State Rep but was unsure at the time whether it was from the business' account or from the owner's personal account. The company also informed the Board that it is a small residential construction company and was unaware of the fact that a corporation is prohibited from contributing to a candidate's committee.

4. Joe McDonald for State Rep returned the prohibited contribution to Scoles Equipment Co. on April 13, 2015. A copy of the check used to return the contribution was provided to the Board on May 11, 2015. However, the contribution was not returned within the 90-day period within which a contribution may be returned to avoid a violation and is therefore deemed accepted.

5. To resolve this matter informally, and to avoid these violations in the future, Scoles Equipment Co. agrees that it will refrain from making corporate political contributions. Scoles Equipment Co. will exercise care in making a distinction between the corporation and its individual owners when making political contributions.

6. Scoles Equipment Co. agrees that the Board's acceptance of this agreement constitutes the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of \$100 against Scoles Equipment Co. for making a contribution that was prohibited by Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15, subdivision 2. \$25 of the penalty is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. \$75 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2017. If Scoles Equipment Co. violates Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15, subdivision 2 before January 1, 2017, the

outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If Scoles Equipment Co. does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15, subdivision 2 before January 1, 2017, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

7. If Scoles Equipment Co. does not comply with the provisions of this agreement, this matter may be reopened by the Board and the Board may take such actions as it deems appropriate.

/s/ Ann Scoles  
Ann Scoles  
Scoles Equipment Co.

Dated: July 23, 2015

/s/ Gary Goldsmith  
Gary Goldsmith, Executive Director  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: July 6, 2015

Agreement approved by Board at meeting of July 6, 2015

/s/ George A. Beck  
George A. Beck, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board