STATE OF MINNESOTA CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

PRIMA FACIE DETERMINATION

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF THE MINNESOTA JOBS COALITION REGARDING GARY SCHINDLER, SCHINDLER (GARY) FOR HOUSE COMMITTEE, ROBIN BROWN, ROBIN BROWN FOR MINNESOTA COMMITTEE, AND WEDGEWOOD PERUVIAN PASOS

On August 25, 2016, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board received a complaint submitted by Kevin Magnuson on behalf of the Minnesota Jobs Coalition regarding Gary Schindler, Schindler (Gary) for House committee, Robin Brown, Robin Brown for Minnesota committee, and Wedgewood Peruvian Pasos. The Schindler (Gary) for House committee is the principal campaign committee of Gary Schindler for the seat in the House of Representatives for district 27A. The Robin Brown for Minnesota committee is the now-terminated principal campaign committee of Robin Brown for the seat in the House of Representatives for district 27A.

The complaint alleges the following violations:

- Robin Brown wrote a check from Wedgewood Peruvian Pasos, a business that she owns and operates, that was reported as a contribution from the Robin Brown for Minnesota committee to the Schindler for House committee. If the funds were from the Robin Brown for Minnesota committee, then thos funds had been commingled with other funds in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.11, subdivision 5;
- 2. The contribution from Wedgewood Peruvian Pasos to the Schindler for House Committee was a prohibited corporate contribution in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15, subdivision 2; and
- 3. The Robin Brown for Minnesota and Schindler for House committees, and their respective candidates, filed false campaign finance reports by listing the contribution as being from Robin Brown for Minnesota (when it was instead made by Wedgewood Peruvian Pasos), in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.025, subdivision 2.

Determination:

Having reviewed the submissions, the chair makes the determination that the complaint and its attachments state a prima facie allegation of a violation of the aforementioned commingling, corporate contribution, and false campaign finance reports provisions.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, paragraph (1), this prima facie determination is made by a single Board member and not by any vote of the entire Board. This prima facie determination does not mean that the Board has commenced, or will commence, an investigation or has made any determination of a violation by any of the individuals or entities named in the complaint.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 3, paragraph (2), within 45 days of the date of this determination the Board will make findings and conclusions as to whether probable cause exists to believe the violations alleged in the complaint warrant a formal investigation. The complainant and the respondents named in this prima facie determination will be given an opportunity to be heard by the Board prior to any decision on probable cause.

Until the Board makes a public finding or enters into a conciliation agreement, this matter is subject to the confidentiality requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 5.

<u>/s/ Daniel Rosen</u> Daniel N. Rosen, Chair Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board Date: <u>8/29/2016</u>