

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

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Melisa Franzen for Senate committee (17347);

1. Melisa Franzen for Senate is the principal campaign committee of Senator Melisa López Franzen. The aggregate special source contribution limit, which includes contributions from lobbyists, political committees and funds, and associations not registered with the Board, was \$20,600 for state senate candidates during the 2019-2020 election cycle segment. The committee's 2019 and 2020 year-end reports of receipts and expenditures disclosed a combined total of \$20,759 in special source contributions. The \$159 in excess special source contributions was not returned within 90 days and is therefore deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
2. The committee's treasurer, Carlin Struckman, self-reported the issue to the Board in January 2021 and agreed to return the excess amount. He explained that while preparing the committee's 2020 year-end report, he discovered a \$250 special source contribution that was not timely entered into the Board's Campaign Finance Reporter software, causing the violation to go unnoticed.
3. The parties agree that the committee accepted excessive contributions from special source contributors in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, during the 2019-2020 election cycle segment. This is the second election cycle segment in which the committee has violated the aggregate special source limit. The committee exceeded the aggregate special source limit during the 2013-2014 election cycle segment by \$75.
4. To avoid a similar violation in the future, the committee agrees to ensure that the committee's treasurer reviews and enters contributions into the Campaign Finance Reporter software within 60 days of receipt.
5. The committee agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty of \$318, two times the amount of the violation, for accepting contributions in excess of the limit imposed by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11. Of this amount, \$100 is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. The remaining \$218 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2023. If the committee violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the committee does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.
6. The committee also agrees to provide to the Board, within 90 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties, a copy of the deposited check or other documentation showing that at least \$159 has been returned to a special source contributor.

7. If the committee 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/ Melisa López Franzen
Senator Melisa López Franzen
Melisa Franzen for Senate

Dated: March 11, 2021

/s/ Stephen Swanson
Stephen Swanson, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: March 3, 2021