

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

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Aric (Putnam) for MN committee (18430);

1. Aric (Putnam) for MN is the principal campaign committee of Senator Aric Putnam. The aggregate special source contribution limit, which includes contributions from lobbyists, political committees and funds, and associations not registered with the Board, is \$7,300 for candidates for state senate during the 2023-2024 election cycle segment. The committee's second amended 2023 year-end report of receipts and expenditures disclosed a total of \$7,962.88 in special source contributions. The \$662.88 in excess special source contributions was not returned within 90 days of deposit and is therefore deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
2. The committee's treasurer, Kris Hagen, explained that in November 2023 the committee received several special source contributions, and realized shortly thereafter that the amount received exceeded the special source limit. The committee attempted to return sufficient funds to bring the committee back under the limit within the 90-day window. However, a refund check sent to one special source contributor was lost, or never received by the contributor. Because the committee believed it had returned the contribution, which was for \$1,000, it was not included within the committee's original 2023 year-end report. The contributor did report the contribution on its 2023 year-end report, which led to the Putnam committee being contacted regarding the discrepancy in spring 2024. The Putnam committee then filed an amended report as instructed by Board staff to include the \$1,000 contribution because it was not successfully refunded to the donor. Mr. Hagen explained that he is serving in a volunteer capacity and acknowledged his mistake in not verifying that the returned contributions were not received or deposited by the donor. Mr. Hagen stated that a new refund check for \$1,000 has been mailed. The committee provided a copy of the deposited check and other documentation showing that \$1,000 has been returned to a special source contributor.
3. The parties agree that the committee inadvertently accepted excess contributions from special source contributors in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, during the 2023-2024 election cycle segment. The committee registered with the Board in 2019 and this is its first violation of the aggregate special source limit.
4. To avoid a similar violation in the future, the committee agrees that it will communicate with any special source contributor to which it is refunding a contribution and ensure that the refund is received and deposited in a timely manner. The committee also agrees that its treasurer will review the aggregate special source contribution limit at the beginning of each two-year election cycle segment, continue to use the Board's Campaign Finance Reporter Online application, review the amount of each contribution, and enter each contribution within 60 days of receipt.

5. The committee agrees that it will not accept more than \$337.12 in contributions from special sources in 2024.

6. The committee agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty of \$170 for accepting contributions in excess of the limit imposed by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11. The amount of the civil penalty was determined in part by the fact that this was a first-time violation of the aggregate special source limit. The civil penalty of \$170 is approximately 25% of \$662.88, which was the amount by which the committee exceeded the aggregate special source limit.

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/ Aric Putnam
Senator Aric Putnam
Aric (Putnam) for MN

Dated: September 20, 2024

/s/ David Asp
David Asp, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: September 4, 2024