STATE OF MINNESOTA CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

FINDINGS AND ORDER IN THE MATTER OF A CONTRIBUTION DURING THE REGULAR 2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BY KELLY LINDQUIST

Background

On January 16, 2006, the Pawlenty for Governor Committee (Committee) notified the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board ("the Board") that the Committee accepted a \$250 contribution from Leonard Kelley Lindquist during the 2005 regular legislative session. The contribution was made on February 8, 2005. The 2005 regular legislative session was held from January 4, 2005, to May 23, 2005. The Committee further notified the Board that it had received two checks from Leonard Kelley Lindquist that were not identified with a lobbyist registration number.

Minnesota Statutes, section10A.273, subdivision 1, clause b, prohibits lobbyists from making a contribution to a principal campaign committee during a regular legislative session. A lobbyist who violates this section is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the board of up to \$1,000.

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.15, subdivision 5, requires lobbyists to provide their lobbyist registration number on contributions made to candidates. A lobbyist violating this section is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the board of up to \$1,000 per violation.

Richard G. Morgan, legal counsel for the Committee stated in a letter to the Board dated January 16, 2006, "On February 8, 2005, "Leonard Kelley Lindquist" contributed \$250 by check to the Committee. The check contributed did not bear the lobbyist name and address by which Mr. Lindquist is registered as a lobbyist with the Board...Further, the check did not bear Mr. Lindquist's lobbyist registration number of 494."

Mr. Morgan further stated: "Mr. Lindquist contributed a second check to the Committee on September 14, 2005, when the Minnesota Legislature was not in session. However, like the check contributed on February 8, 2005, this check did not contain the name, address or lobbyist number under which Mr. Lindquist is registered as a lobbyist with the Board." Mr. Morgan provided copies of the checks submitted by Mr. Lindquist to the Committee. Mr. Morgan also provided the Board with a copy of a check and letter that was used by the Committee to return the contribution that had been received during the regular legislative session to Mr. Lindquist.

Board records show that Mr. Lindquist is registered as a lobbyist under the name "Kelley Lindquist", at an address that is different than the address listed on the contribution checks.

By letter dated February 1, 2006, the Board notified Mr. Lindquist of the correspondence received from the Committee and the statutory provisions that appeared to be violated. Bert J. McKasy, legal counsel for Mr. Lindquist, responded on behalf of his client by letter dated February 21, 2006. Mr. McKasy stated: "Mr. Lindquist, who works for a non-profit, is an infrequent and unsophisticated political contributor, although he is a registered lobbyist. Someone told him that the prohibition on contributions during the legislative session applied only to legislators, but not the Governor, so he mistakenly relied on that information. He was unaware of the name and registration number requirement, but certainly will be in the future".

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on February 24, 2006.

Relevant Statutes

- 1. Minnesota Statues section 10A.15, subdivision 5. **Registration number on checks.** A contribution made to a candidate by a lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or party unit must show the name of the lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or party unit and the number under which it is registered with the board.
- 2. Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1, clause b. **Contributions during legislative session.** A registered lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or dissolving principal campaign committee, or a party unit established by the party organization within a house of the legislature, must not make a contribution to a candidate for the legislature or for constitutional office, the candidate's principal campaign committee, or a political committee or party unit established by all or a part of the party organization within a house of the legislature during a regular session of the legislature.

Based on the above Statement of the Facts and Relevant Statutes, the Board makes the following:

Findings Of Probable Cause

- 1. There is evidence that Kelley Lindquist, a registered lobbyist, contributed \$250 to a candidate during the 2005 regular legislative session. The Board finds that there is probable cause to believe that Mr. Lindquist violated Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1, clause b.
- 2. There is evidence that Kelley Lindquist contributed two checks to a principal campaign committee that did not indicate the lobbyist registration number of Mr. Lindquist. The Board finds that there is probable cause to believe that Mr. Lindquist twice violated Minnesota Statues section 10A.15, subdivision 5.

Based on the above Findings, the Board issues the following:

<u>Order</u>

- 1. For making a contribution to a candidate during the 2005 regular legislative session the Board orders Kelley Lindquist to pay a civil penalty of \$250, which is one times the amount of the contribution. This civil penalty must be paid within 30 days.
- 2. For failure to provide the lobbyist registration number on two contributions the Board orders Kelley Lindquist to pay a civil penalty of \$500, which is one times the amount of the two contributions. This civil penalty must be paid within 30 days.
- 3. If Kelley Lindquist does not comply with the provisions of this order, the Board's Executive Director shall refer this matter to the Ramsey County Attorney for civil enforcement pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273.
- 4. The Board investigation of this matter is entered into the public record in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section10A.02, subdivision 11, and upon payment by Kelley Lindquist of the civil penalties imposed herein, the matter is concluded.

Dated: February 24, 2006

Bothert

Bob Milbert, Chair Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board