STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the MAPE-PAC (30270);

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.28, subdivision 3, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board and MAPE-PAC (the Committee) agree as follows:

1. On its 2013 year-end Report of Receipts and Expenditures and its 2014 October pre-general-election Report of Receipts and Expenditures, the Committee reported that it had made $1,100 in contributions to each of three state representatives' principal campaign committees during the two-year period. The Committee also reported that it had made $1,250 in contributions to another state representative's principal campaign committee during the two-year period. The total amount of the contributions to each campaign committee exceeds the applicable political committee contribution limit during the 2013-2014 election cycle, which for a state representative candidate is $1,000. Between the four campaign committees the Committee made total excess contributions of $550.

2. In communications with the Board, the Committee's treasurer confirmed that the Committee had made the excess contributions. The Committee's treasurer also explained that all of the excess contributions had been returned and provided to the Board a copy of each check and each letter returning the excess contributions. However, the excess contributions were not returned within 90 days, and thus, are deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.

3. In the case of one of the state representative committees, the contribution checks from MAPE-PAC were provided to the Board. Two of the three contributions given to that representative candidate did not contain the Committee's registration number on the check. The third contribution had the Committee's contribution number handwritten on the check. Minnesota Statutes § 10A.15, subdivision 5, requires a political committee to list its registration number on contribution checks given to a candidate's committee. The two checks that did not contain the Committee's registration number totaled $350.

4. Board records show that this is the first instance in which the Committee reported making contributions that exceeded the contribution limits or was found to have failed to include its registration number on a contribution check. The Committee registered with the Board on December 30, 1985.

5. The parties agree that the Committee made excessive contributions to state representative principal campaign committees resulting in violations of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 1(a)(5), in the 2013-2014 election cycle. The parties also agree that the Committee failed to include its registration number on two contribution checks resulting in violations of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 5.

6. To resolve this matter informally, and to avoid these violations in the future, the Committee agrees that it will:

a. Ensure that the Committee's treasurer reviews and enters contributions and expenditures into the Campaign Finance Reporter software within 60 days and runs and reviews a Batch Compliance Report after each data entry session. Transactions reviewed and entered within this timeframe will allow the Committee to detect violations of the campaign finance laws and also provide the Committee with 30 days to seek the return of a contribution before it is deemed accepted; and

b. Clearly identify its registration number on all future contributions.

7. The Committee agrees that the Board's acceptance of this agreement constitutes the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of $900 against the Committee for making contributions in excess of the limit imposed by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 1(a)(5) and for failing to include its registration number on contribution checks as required by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 5. $450 of the penalty is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. $450 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2017. If the Committee violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 1(a)(5) or section 10A.15, subdivision 5 before January 1, 2017, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the Committee does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subd. 1(a)(5) or section 10A.15, subdivision 5 within that timeframe, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

8. 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.

_____ Dated: 2/24/2015
Sheila Scott, Treasurer
MAPE-PAC

_____ Dated: 2/4/15
Gary Goldsmith, Executive Director
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Agreement approved by Board at meeting of 2/3, 2015

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