STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Committee to Elect Bobby Joe Champion (17316);

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.28, subdivision 3, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board and Senator Bobby Joe Champion (the Candidate) agree as follows:

1. The Committee to Elect Bobby Joe Champion (the Committee) is the principal campaign committee of Senator Bobby Joe Champion. On its 2013 amended year-end Report of Receipts and Expenditures and its 2014 year-end Report of Receipts and Expenditures, the Committee reported that it had accepted $6,235 in total contributions from special sources. These sources include registered lobbyists, from whom the Committee accepted $1,160, and political committees or political funds, from which the Committee accepted $5,075. The total amount of these contributions exceeds the applicable limit on aggregate contributions from special sources during the 2013-2014 non-election segment, which for a state senate candidate is $6,000. The $235 that exceeded the limit was not returned within 90 days, and was therefore deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.

2. In an email dated March 4, 2015, the Committee's treasurer provided to the Board a copy of the check returning the excess contribution. The Committee did not initially receive notice of the violation from the Campaign Finance Reporter software because the Committee was using an outdated version of the software. After the Committee updated its version of the software prior to filing its 2014 year-end report it received notice of the violation, promptly notified the Board of the issue, and took steps to remedy the violation.

3. Board records show that this is the second instance in which the Committee reported acceptance of contributions that exceeded the special source limit. In the first instance, ineffective work by the Committee's treasurer caused a number of issues and errors. The Committee changed treasurers after those issues occurred. The Committee registered with the Board on November 18, 2011.

4. The parties agree that the Committee accepted excessive contributions from special sources in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, in the 2013-2014 non-election segment.

5. To resolve this matter informally, and to avoid these violations in the future, the Candidate and the Committee agree that they will:

a. Ensure that the Committee's treasurer reviews and enters or uploads contributions into the Campaign Finance Reporter software within 60 days of receipt;

b. Run a batch compliance report after each time contributions are entered and take steps to remedy any violations the software identifies so that problems may be resolved within the 90 days that statutes provide for the return of a contribution before it is deemed accepted;

c. Update the Campaign Finance Reporter software whenever the software notifies the user that an update is available; and

d. Contact Board technical staff to report and receive assistance with any software problems.

6. The Board agrees that it will provide technical assistance as needed to facilitate the Committee's compliance with the terms of paragraph 5 of this agreement.

7. The Candidate agrees that the Board's acceptance of this agreement constitutes the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of $235 against the Candidate for accepting contributions in excess of the limit imposed by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11. $58.75 of the penalty is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. $176.25 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2017. If the Candidate violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11 before January 1, 2017, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the Candidate does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11 within that timeframe, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

8. If the Candidate 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: 5-11-2015

Senator Bobby Joe Champion
Committee to Elect Bobby Joe Champion

Dated: 4/15/15

Gary Goldsmith, Executive Director
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Agreement approved by Board at meeting of April 14, 2015

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