STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Johnson (Jeff) for Governor Committee (17641);

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

1. The Johnson (Jeff) for Governor Committee (the Committee) is the principal campaign committee of Jeff Johnson. 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 a series of contributions from one individual totaling $6,000 during the two year period. The total amount of these contributions exceeds the applicable individual contribution limit during the 2013-2014 election segment, which is $4,000 for a candidate for governor. The final contribution in this series, in the amount of $2,000, resulted in the violation. This contribution was not returned within 90 days, and thus, is deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.

2. In a letter to the Board dated March 5, 2015, the Committee's treasurer confirmed that the Committee had accepted the excess contribution. The treasurer stated that the excess contribution had been returned to the donor and provided a copy of the check returning the excess contribution. The treasurer explained that violation occurred because a batch of credit card contributions had not been processed within the 90 day period within which a committee may return a contribution to its source before it is deemed accepted.

3. Board records show that this is the first instance in which the Committee reported acceptance of contributions that exceeded the individual contribution limit. The Committee registered with the Board on May 6, 2013.

4. The parties agree that the Committee accepted excessive contributions from an individual resulting in an a violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 1(a)(1), in the 2013-2014 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 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 Candidate agrees that the Board's acceptance of this agreement constitutes the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of $2,000 against the Candidate for accepting individual contributions in excess of the limit imposed by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 1(a)(1). $500 of the penalty is due within 30 days of the date this agreement is signed by both parties. $1,500 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 1(a)(1) before January 1, 2017, the stayed portion of the civil penalty is due immediately. If the Candidate does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 1(a)(1) before January 1, 2017, the stayed portion of the civil penalty is waived.

7. 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: 4/23/15
Jeff Johnson
Johnson for Governor

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

Agreement approved by Board at meeting of April 14, 2015

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