STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Melisa Franzen for Senate committee (17347);

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

1. The Melisa Franzen for Senate committee (the Committee) is the principal campaign committee of Senator Melisa Franzen. On its 2013 amended year-end Report of Receipts and Expenditures and its 2014 amended year-end Report of Receipts and Expenditures, the Committee reported that it had accepted $6,075 in total contributions from special sources. These sources include registered lobbyists, from whom the Committee accepted $2,675, and political committees or political funds, from which the Committee accepted $3,400. 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 $75 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 February 24, 2015, the Committee's treasurer provided to the Board a copy of the check and the letter returning the excess contribution. The Committee did not receive notice of the violation from the Campaign Finance Reporter software because the Committee changed treasurers during the non-election segment and could not properly restore the 2013 database to the new treasurer's system.

3. Board records show that this is the first instance in which the Committee reported acceptance of contributions that exceeded the special source limit. The Committee registered with the Board on February 7, 2012.

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 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;

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

e. Work with Board staff in the event that the Committee changes computers to ensure that all necessary databases are on the system to allow the software to check for violations of campaign finance laws as they may arise.

6. The Candidate agrees that the Board's acceptance of this agreement constitutes the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of $75 against the Candidate for accepting contributions in excess of the limit imposed by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11. $18.75 of the penalty is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. $56.25 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.

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.

Melisa Franzen — Dated: 4/19/15

Senator Melisa Franzen
Melisa Franzen for Senate

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