

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

**CONCILIATION  
AGREEMENT**

In the matter of the Clausen (Gregory) for Senate committee (17441);

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

1. The Clausen for Senate committee (the Committee) is the principal campaign committee of Senator Gregory Clausen. On its 2013 year-end Report of Receipts and Expenditures and its 2014 year-end Report of Receipts and Expenditures, the Committee reported that it had accepted \$6,250 in total contributions from special sources. These sources include registered lobbyists, from whom the Committee accepted \$1,300, and political committees or political funds, from which the Committee accepted \$4,950. 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 \$250 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 to the Board dated June 25, 2015, the Committee's treasurer stated that the acceptance of the excess contribution occurred after her laptop's hard drive crashed and the Committee's information could not be immediately restored. After the treasurer was able to re-enter all of the Committee's information for 2013 and 2014, the violation was discovered. The Committee returned the excess contribution with a check dated November 3, 2014, and provided to the Board a copy of the check and letter returning the contribution.

3. Board records indicate that this is the first instance in which the Committee reported the acceptance of contributions that exceeded the special source limit. The Committee registered with the Board on March 27, 2012.

4. The parties agree that the Committee accepted excessive contributions from special sources in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11, during 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 within five days of the acceptance of this agreement and 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 or computer issues that may compromise the effectiveness of the software.

6. The Candidate agrees that the Board's acceptance of this agreement constitutes the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of \$250 against the Candidate for accepting contributions in excess of the limit imposed by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 11. \$62.50 of the penalty is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. \$187.50 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.

/s/ Gregory Clausen Dated: 8-12-2015  
Gregory Clausen  
Clausen for Senate

/s/ Gary Goldsmith Dated: 8-5-2015  
Gary Goldsmith, Executive Director  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Agreement approved by Board at meeting of 8-4, 2015

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