

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

**FINDINGS REGARDING
FARMERS UNION AGENCY, INC.**

Procedural Background

In response to an inquiry from the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (“the Board”) James Frederickson, president, Farmers Union Agency, Inc., notified the Board that Farmers Union Agency, Inc., an unregistered association, made a \$125 contribution to Minnesota Farmers Union PAC, a registered political committee, without providing the required disclosure.

Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (b), prohibits an unregistered association from making a contribution to a registered principal campaign committee, unless, at the time the contribution is made, the unregistered association provides a disclosure statement that meets the reporting requirements of Minn. Stat. §10A.20.

On April 13, 2005, Mr. Frederickson stated “I was not aware of the statute prohibiting contributions in excess of \$100 to a PAC.”

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session at its meeting on April 16, 2005. The Board’s decision was based on correspondence received from Mr. Frederickson and Board records.

Based on the record before it, the Board issues the following:

EVIDENTIARY FINDINGS

1. There is evidence that Farmers Union Agency, Inc. inadvertently violated Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (b), when it made a contribution in excess of \$100 to a registered political committee, the Minnesota Farmers Union PAC, without providing the required disclosure.
2. There is no evidence that these contributions were returned within 60 days. Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (b), provides that an unregistered association that makes a contribution in excess of \$100 without the required disclosure is subject to civil penalty of up to \$1,000.

Based on the above Statement of the Evidence, the Board makes the following:

FINDINGS CONCERNING PROBABLE CAUSE

There is probable cause to believe that Farmers Union Agency, Inc. inadvertently violated Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (b) by making a contribution in excess of \$100 to a registered political committee without providing the required disclosure.

Based on the above Findings, the Board issues the following:

ORDER

1. The Board imposes a civil penalty of \$50, two times the amount by which the contribution exceeded \$100, on Farmers Union Agency, Inc. for making a contribution in excess of \$100 without providing the required disclosure.
2. Farmers Union Agency, Inc. is directed to forward to the Board payment of the civil penalty of \$50 by check or money order payable to the State of Minnesota, within thirty days of the public posting of this order.
3. If Farmers Union Agency, Inc. does not comply with the provisions of this order, the Board's Executive Director shall refer this matter to the appropriate County Attorney for civil enforcement pursuant to Minn. Stat. §10A.28, subd.4.
4. The Board investigation of this matter is hereby made a part of the public records of the Board pursuant to Minn. Stat. §10A.02, subd. 11, and upon payment of the civil penalty imposed herein, this matter is concluded.

Dated: April 26, 2005

Terri Ashmore, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board