

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

**Findings and Order In The Matter of a Contribution
During the Regular 2008 Legislative Session
By SEIU Minnesota State Council Political Fund**

Summary of the Facts

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1(b), prohibits a registered political fund from making a contribution to a candidate for legislature or for constitutional office, or the candidate's principal campaign committee during a regular legislative session. A political fund that violates this section is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the board of up to \$1,000.

The 2008 Preprimary Report of Receipts and Expenditures filed with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board ("the Board") by the SEIU Minnesota State Council Political Fund ("the SEIU") disclosed contributions made during the 2008 legislative session which was held February 12 through May 19, 2008. On February 19, 2008, a \$500 contribution was made to the Dennis Sucik for House 19B Committee. On April 29, 2008, a \$500 contribution was made to the Harry Grigsby for MN House Committee.

By letter dated September 18, 2008, the Board notified Kristin Beckmann, treasurer of the SEIU, of the statutory provision that appeared to be violated. On October 2, 2008, Ms. Beckmann responded by letter and stated, "I now understand that our PAC is not supposed to make any contribution to any state candidate during Session. However, at the time, my understanding of the rules was that you couldn't make a contribution to a sitting State Legislator during the Legislative Session. ...Both Dennis Sucik and Harry Grigsby are members of SEIU. ...In no way did we mean to break the rules regarding the timing of PAC contributions and we certainly did not intend to cause them to break the rules in accepting our contribution."

In response to inquiries from the Board, Dennis Sucik and Frank Miskowiec, treasurer of Harry Grigsby for MN House Committee, confirmed acceptance of the contributions from the SEIU during the legislative session.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on October 21, 2008. The Findings are based on the correspondence from Ms. Beckman, Mr. Sucik, Mr. Miskowiec and Board records.

Based on the above Summary of the Facts and Relevant Statutes, the Board makes the following:

Findings Concerning Probable Cause

1. There is probable cause to believe that the SEIU Minnesota State Council Political Fund violated Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1(b) by contributing \$500 each to the Dennis Sucik for House 19B Committee and Harry Grigsby for MN House Committee during the 2008 regular legislative session.

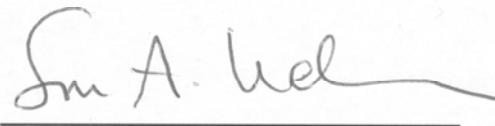
2. There is no probable cause to believe that this violation was intentional or done with the intent to circumvent the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 10A.

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

Order

1. The Board imposes a civil penalty of \$1,000, which is one times the amount of the two contributions, on the SEIU Minnesota State Council Political Fund, for contributing to principal campaign committees during the 2008 legislative session in violation of Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1(b).
2. The SEIU Minnesota State Council Political Fund is directed to forward to the Board payment of the civil penalty, by check or money order payable to the State of Minnesota, within 30 days of receipt of this order
3. If the SEIU Minnesota State Council Political Fund does not comply with the provisions of this order, the Board's Executive Director may request that the Attorney General bring an action for the remedies available under Minnesota Statute, section 10A.34.
4. The Board investigation of this matter is entered into the public record in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.02, subdivision 11, and upon payment by the SEIU Minnesota State Council Political Fund of the civil penalties imposed herein, the matter is concluded.

Dated: October 21, 2008



Sven A. Wehrwein, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Relevant Statutes

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1, clause b. **Contributions during legislative session.** A registered lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or dissolving principal campaign committee, or a party unit established by the party organization within a house of the legislature, must not make a contribution to a candidate for the legislature or for constitutional office, the candidate's principal campaign committee, or a political committee or party unit established by all or a part of the party organization within a house of the legislature during a regular session of the legislature.