

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

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Vote Duckworth (Zach) committee (18509);

1. Vote Duckworth (Zach) is the principal campaign committee of Senator Zach Duckworth. The aggregate political party unit and terminating principal campaign committee contribution limit was \$10,000 for a candidate for state senator during the 2019-2020 election cycle segment. The committee's 2020 year-end report of receipts and expenditures initially included a total of \$10,000 in contributions from those sources. However, a \$1,000 contribution from a terminating principal campaign committee was mistakenly classified as a contribution from an individual. After the error was discovered the committee's treasurer, Mark Priore, filed an amended 2020 year-end report showing that the committee exceeded the \$10,000 limit by \$1,000. The excess amount was not returned within 90 days of deposit and is therefore deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
2. Mr. Priore explained that the committee exceeded the limit due to the \$1,000 contribution from a terminating principal campaign committee being misclassified as a contribution from an individual.
3. The parties agree that the committee inadvertently accepted excessive contributions from party units and terminating principal campaign committees in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 2, during the 2019-2020 election cycle segment. This is the committee's first violation of the limit on contributions from party units and terminating principal campaign committees.
4. To avoid a similar violation in the future, the committee agrees to take care to ensure that the correct receipt type is selected, depending on the source of each contribution, when a contribution is entered into the Campaign Finance Reporter software.
5. The committee agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty of \$1,000, one times the amount of the violation, for accepting contributions in excess of the limit imposed by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 2. Of this amount, \$250 is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. The remaining \$750 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2023. If the committee violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 2, before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the committee does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 2, before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.
6. The committee also agrees to provide to the Board, within 60 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties, a copy of the deposited check or other documentation showing that \$1,000 has been refunded to a party unit that made a contribution to the committee in 2020.

7. If the committee 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/ Zach Duckworth
Senator Zach Duckworth
Vote Duckworth (Zach)

Dated: April 30, 2021

/s/ Stephen Swanson
Stephen Swanson, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: April 9, 2021