STATE OF MINNESOTA

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

CONCILIATION

AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Citizens for (Dan) Sparks Committee (#15675);

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.28, subdivision 3, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board and Senator Dan Sparks (hereinafter referred to as "the Candidate") hereby agree as follows:

- 1. During 2006, the Citizens for (Dan) Sparks Committee ("the Committee") accepted \$12,200 in contributions from special sources. These sources include registered lobbyists from whom the Committee accepted \$4,025, and political committees or political funds from which the Committee accepted \$8,175. The total amount of these contributions exceeded by \$200 the applicable limit on aggregate contributions from special sources, which for a state senate candidate was \$12,000. The amount of \$200 in excess contributions was not returned within 60 days as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
- 2. In correspondence dated November 12, 2006, Linda Unverzagt, treasurer, stated "Both Senator Sparks and myself are in agreement that we are, indeed, \$200.00 over our aggregate limit."

- 3. Board records show that this is the second calendar year in which the Committee reported acceptance of contributions that exceeded the applicable aggregate contribution limit. The Committee registered with the Board on April 17, 2002.
- 4. The parties agree that the Committee accepted excessive contributions from special sources resulting in an inadvertent violation of Minnesota Statutes, section 10A. 27, subdivision 11, in calendar year 2006.
- 5. The Candidate hereby agrees to return to contributors described in paragraph 1 an amount sufficient to bring the committee in compliance with Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.27, subdivision 11. Copies of the check(s) and the accompanying letter(s) returning the excess amount must be forwarded to the Board within 30 days after the date this Conciliation Agreement is signed by the Board chair.
- 6. The Board imposes a civil penalty of \$400, two times the amount by which the contributions exceeded the applicable limit, to be paid to the Board for deposit in the general fund of the state.
- 7. The Candidate hereby agrees to forward to the Board \$400 by check or money order payable to the STATE OF MINNESOTA within 30 days after the date this Agreement is signed by the Board chair. It is agreed by the parties that payment of the civil penalty of \$400, and this Conciliation Agreement will be a bar to any civil proceeding under Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.28, subdivisions 3 and 4.
- 8. It is further understood and agreed, however, that if the civil penalty of \$400 is not paid within the time specified in paragraph 7 above, then the Candidate will be personally liable to pay a civil penalty, under Minnesota Statutes, sections 10A.28 and 10A.34, subdivision 1, in an amount calculated as follows:

- (a) \$600 which is three times the amount by which the contributions exceeded the statutory limit, if payment is received 31 to 60 days after the date this Agreement is signed by the Board Chair;
- (c) \$800 which is four times the amount by which the contributions exceeded the statutory limit, if payment is received more than 60 days after the date this Agreement is signed by the Board Chair.
- 9. It is further understood and agreed that this Agreement is confidential until signed by the Candidate and the Board Chair; the signed Agreement then shall become a matter of public record, and the statutory requirement of confidentiality shall no longer apply. Minnesota Statutes, sections 10A.02, subdivision 11 and 10A.28, subdivision 3.

Senator Dan Sparks

Approved by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Bob Milbert, Chair

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board