

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

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the Matter of the Sibley County DFL (20180);

1. The Sibley County DFL's 2020 pre-general report of receipts and expenditures disclosed a \$4,040 contribution dated September 15, 2020, from John Neisen Enterprises LLC. John Neisen Enterprises LLC is a Minnesota limited liability company. A staff review was initiated as the contribution appeared to have been accepted in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15.
2. Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15, subdivision 2, prohibits a political party unit from accepting a contribution from a corporation, including an LLC that does business in Minnesota.
3. Terry Klages, the Sibley County DFL's treasurer, stated that he was not aware of the prohibition on accepting a contribution from an LLC. John Neisen stated that when making the contribution, he used the wrong check and inadvertently issued a check drawn on the account of the LLC rather than his personal bank account. Mr. Neisen issued a new check for the same amount drawn on his personal bank account in April 2021 to replace the check drawn on the account of the LLC.
4. The parties agree that the Sibley County DFL inadvertently accepted a corporate contribution in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15, subdivision 2. This is the Sibley County DFL's first violation of the prohibition on corporate contributions.
5. To avoid a similar violation in the future, the Sibley County DFL agrees that it will carefully review contribution checks and inquire further if there is any question as to whether a contribution is being made by a corporation as that term is defined by Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15.
6. The Sibley County DFL agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of \$2,020, half of the amount of the contribution, for accepting a contribution prohibited by Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15, subdivision 2. Of this amount, \$500 is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. The remaining \$1,520 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2023. If the Sibley County DFL violates Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15, subdivision 2, before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the Sibley County DFL does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 211B.15, subdivision 2, before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.
7. The Sibley County DFL 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 \$4,040 has been refunded to John Neisen Enterprises LLC.

8. The parties agree that this agreement resolves any possible violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13, related to the contribution from John Neisen Enterprises LLC.

9. If the Sibley County DFL 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/ Terry Klages

Terry Klages, Treasurer
Sibley County DFL

Dated: August 23, 2021

/s/ Stephen Swanson

Stephen Swanson, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: July 28, 2021