

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

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Citizens for Jeff Backer Jr House committee (17735);

1. Citizens for Jeff Backer Jr House is the principal campaign committee of Representative Jeff Backer. The aggregate political party unit and terminating principal campaign committee contribution limit was \$10,000 for a candidate for state representative during the 2019-2020 election cycle. The committee's 2019 and 2020 year-end reports of receipts and expenditures initially included a total of \$9,250 in contributions from those sources. An amended 2020 year-end report was filed on April 20, 2021, showing that an additional \$1,000 contribution was received from a terminating principal campaign committee in 2020 and the committee thereby exceeded the \$10,000 limit by \$250. 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. The committee's treasurer, Michele Backer, explained that the excess amount initially went undetected because a \$1,000 contribution from a terminating principal campaign committee was mistakenly entered within the Board's Campaign Finance Reporter software as a contribution from an individual. Ms. Backer stated that the committee will refund \$250 to a party unit that contributed to the committee during the 2019-2020 election cycle.
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. 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 ensure that the committee's treasurer will carefully review contribution checks to accurately determine the source of each contribution.
5. The committee agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty of \$250, 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, \$100 is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. The remaining \$150 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 \$250 has been refunded to a party unit that contributed at least that amount to the committee during the 2019-2020 election cycle.

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/ Jeff Backer
Representative Jeff Backer
Citizens for Jeff Backer Jr House

Dated: August 25, 2021

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

Dated: July 28, 2021