

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

**CONCILIATION**  
**AGREEMENT**

In the matter of the (Jim) Abeler Volunteer Committee (#14819);

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §10A.28, subd. 3, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board and Representative James Abeler hereby agree as follows:

1. During 2005, the Jim Abeler Volunteer Committee ("the Committee") accepted \$2,290 in contributions from special sources. The total amount of these contributions exceeded by \$100 the applicable limit on aggregate contributions from special sources, which for this candidate was \$2,190. The amount of the excess contributions was not returned to the contributors within 60 days as required by Minn. Stat. §10A.15, subd. 3.

2. In a letter received on April 8, 2005, Bart Ward, treasurer, stated "the acceptance occurred for three primary reasons. First, the lobbyists did not identify themselves on their checks. Secondly, I was not able to determine that they were lobbyists until I received an update on Campaign Finance Reporter, which did not occur until just a few weeks ago. Thirdly, I initialized my 2005 database under the old software system at the beginning of the year. Because I set the new year up using the old software, I had several problems in regard to the system inaccurately accounting for receipts from special sources." Mr. Ward provided the Board with copies of the checks returning the excess contributions.


3. Board records show that this is the first calendar year in which the (Jim) Abeler Volunteer Committee reported acceptance of contributions that exceeded the applicable aggregate contribution limit. The Committee registered with the Board on August 6, 1997.

4. The parties agree that the Committee accepted excessive contributions from special sources resulting in an inadvertent violation of Minn. Stat. §10A. 27, subd. 11, in calendar year 2005.

5. Representative James Abeler and the (Jim) Abeler Volunteer Committee agree to accept no additional special source contributions in calendar year 2005.

6. Unless violated, the parties agree that this Conciliation Agreement is a bar to any civil proceeding under Minn. Stat. §10A.28, subd. 4.

7. It is further understood and agreed that this Agreement is confidential until signed by Representative Abeler 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. Minn. Stat. §§10A.02, subd. 11 and 10A.28, subd. 3.

  
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Representative James Abeler  
Approved by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: 5/4/05

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terri Ashmore, chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: 5/11/05