

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

**Findings and Order in the Matter of a  
Prohibited Contribution During the Regular 2006 Legislative Session  
By the Southern Dakota County Labor Council COPE Fund**

**Summary of Allegations and Responses**

In response to an inquiry Linda Mullen, treasurer, of the Southern Dakota County Labor Council COPE Fund verbally verified to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board ("the Board") that the Committee made a contribution on March 9, 2006, to the Paul Hardt for House committee, during the 2006 legislative session. The amount of the contribution was \$500. The 2006 regular legislative session was held from March 1 to May 21, 2006.

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1 (b), prohibits political committees or political funds from making a contribution to a principal campaign committee during a regular legislative session. A political committee or political fund that violates this section is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the board of up to \$1,000.

In a letter dated October 9, 2006, Linda Mullen states, "At the time I did not realize the session had started. This is the first time this has happened and I promise it will also be the last."

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on October 17, 2006.

**Based on the above Summary of Allegations and Responses and Relevant Statutes, the Board makes the following:**

**Findings Concerning Probable Cause**

There is evidence that the Southern Dakota County Labor Council COPE Fund, a registered political fund, contributed \$500 to a principal campaign committee during the 2006 legislative session. The Board finds that there is probable cause to believe that the Southern Dakota County Labor Council COPE Fund inadvertently violated Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1, clause b.

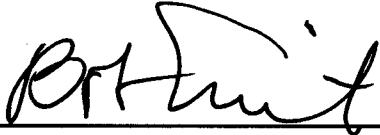
**Based on the above Findings, the Board issues the following:**

**Order**

1. For making a contribution to a candidate during the 2006 legislative session the Board orders the Southern Dakota County Labor Council COPE Fund to pay a civil penalty of \$500, which is one times the amount of the contribution. This civil penalty must be paid within 30 days.

2. If the Southern Dakota County Labor Council COPE Fund does not comply with the provisions of this order, the Board's Executive Director shall refer this matter to the Ramsey County Attorney for civil enforcement pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273.
3. The Board investigation of this matter is entered into the public record in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.02, subdivision 11, and upon payment by the Southern Dakota County Labor Council COPE Fund of the civil penalties imposed herein, the matter is concluded.

Dated: October 17, 2006



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Bob Milbert, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

### Relevant Statutes

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1, clause b. **Contributions during legislative session.** A registered lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or dissolving principal campaign committee, or a party unit established by the party organization within a house of the legislature, must not make a contribution to a candidate for the legislature or for constitutional office, the candidate's principal campaign committee, or a political committee or party unit established by all or a part of the party organization within a house of the legislature during a regular session of the legislature.