

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

**FINDINGS AND ORDER IN THE MATTER OF  
A CONTRIBUTION WITHOUT PROVIDING REGISTRATION NUMBER  
BY SCOTT COTTINGTON**

**Summary of the Facts**

In response to an inquiry from the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (“the Board”), the (Mary) Kiffmeyer for Secretary of State Committee (“the Committee”) confirmed that Scott Cottington made a contribution to the Committee without identifying the contribution as a lobbyist contribution. Mr. Cottington gave a contribution to the Committee on November 16, 2006. Mr. Cottington registered with the Board as a lobbyist on January 3, 2005.

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.15, subdivision 5, prohibits a registered lobbyist from making a contribution without providing the lobbyist’s name and registration number. A lobbyist that violates this section is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the Board of up to \$1,000.

By letter dated March 16, 2007, the Board notified Scott Cottington of the correspondence received from the Committee and the statutory provision that appeared to be violated. Mr. Cottington responded by letter received March 22, 2007. Mr. Cottington stated, “It was my error and I ask that any punishment be directed at me rather than the...Committee. I made the mistake in ignorance rather than as an attempt to deceive...I will be more careful in the future.”

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on April 10, 2007. The Findings are based on the correspondence from Mr. Cottington, the (Mary) Kiffmeyer for Secretary of State Committee, and Board records.

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

**Findings Concerning Probable Cause**

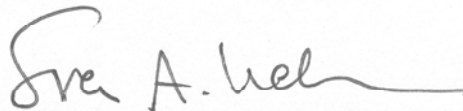
There is evidence that Scott Cottington failed to indicate his lobbyist registration number on a contribution to a candidate. The Board finds that there is probable cause to believe that Mr. Cottington inadvertently violated Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.15, subdivision 5.

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

**Order**

1. For failure to provide a lobbyist registration number on or with a contribution to a candidate the Board orders Scott Cottington to pay a civil penalty of \$250, which is one times the amount of the contribution. This civil penalty must be paid within 30 days.
2. If Scott Cottington 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 Scott Cottington of the civil penalties imposed herein, the matter is concluded.

Dated: April 10, 2007



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Sven A. Wehrwein, Vice Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

### **Relevant Statutes**

Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 5. **Registration number on checks.** A contribution made to a candidate by a lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or party unit must show the name of the lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or party unit and the number under which it is registered with the board.