

STATE OF MINNESOTA
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

CONCILIATION
AGREEMENT

In the matter of the (Michelle) Benson for Senate Committee (#17027);

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.28, subdivision 3, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board and Senator Michelle Benson (hereinafter referred to as “the Candidate”) hereby agree as follows:

1. The (Michelle) Benson for Senate Committee (the Committee) is the principal campaign committee of Senator Michelle Benson. The 2011 nonelection year contribution limit from an individual to a state senate candidate was \$100, as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.27, subdivision 1(a)(3). During 2011, the Committee reported accepting cumulative contributions from an individual that totaled \$200. The contributions exceeded the applicable contribution limit by \$100. The amount of the excess contributions was not returned within 60 days, and thus, is deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.15, subdivision 3.

2. In a response received February 21, 2012, Senator Benson states, “I retrieved the bank deposits and verified two separate deposits of \$100 each. This was an over sight on my part and I did not intend to break any CFB rule.”

3. Board records show that this is the first calendar year in which the Committee reported acceptance of contributions that exceeded the applicable contribution limit from an individual. The Committee registered with the Board on February 16, 2010.

4. The parties agree that the Committee accepted cumulatively-excessive contributions from an individual resulting in an inadvertent violation of Minnesota Statutes, section 10A. 27, subdivision 1(a)(3), in calendar year 2011.

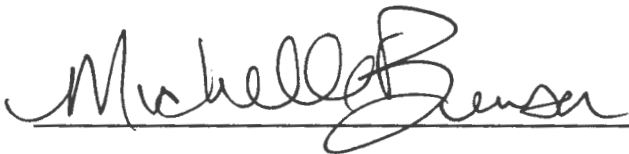
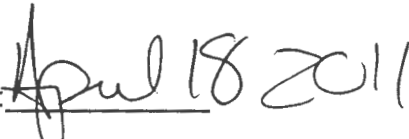
5. The Candidate hereby agrees to return \$100 to the individual who made the excess contributions described in paragraph 1. A copy of the check used to return the excess amount must be provided to the Board within 30 days after the date this conciliation agreement is signed by both parties.

6. The Committee agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$100, one times the amount by which the contributions exceeded the applicable limit, to be paid to the Board for deposit in the general fund of the state.

7. The Committee hereby agrees to forward to the Board \$100 by check or money order payable to the State of Minnesota within 30 days after the date this agreement is signed by both parties. It is agreed by the parties that payment of the civil penalty of \$100, return of the excess contributions, and this conciliation agreement will be a bar to any civil proceeding under Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.28, subdivisions 3 and 4.

8. It is further understood and agreed, however, that failure to pay the civil penalty of \$100 and to provide a copy of the check returning the excess contributions within the time specified in paragraphs 5 and 7 above is a violation of the terms of this conciliation agreement and the Board may declare this agreement to be null and void and may take further action to resolve this matter.

9. It is further understood and agreed that this agreement is confidential until signed by the Candidate and the Board Chair. Once signed, the agreement shall become a matter of public record, and the statutory requirement of confidentiality shall no longer apply. Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.02, subdivision 11, and section 10A.28, subdivision 3.

 _____ Dated:  _____

Senator Michelle Benson

Approved by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

By  _____ Dated: April 3, 2012

Greg McCullough, Chair

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board