

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

**FINDINGS IN THE MATTER OF
A CONTRIBUTION DURING THE REGULAR 2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
BY CURTIS LOEWE**

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

On October 25, 2004, the Friends for Jim Carlson Committee notified the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (“the Board”) that it had accepted a \$50 contribution from Curtis Loewe, a registered lobbyist, during the regular 2004 legislative session.

In a letter to the Board received on November 15, 2004, Mr. Loewe stated, “On March 9, 2004, I inadvertently made a contribution to the Friends for Jim Carlson campaign in the amount of \$50.00. Please be assured that I did not contribute to this campaign with the thought of ignoring the law.”

The contribution was made on March 9, 2004. The regular 2004 legislative session was held from February 2, 2004, to May 16, 2004. On October 25, 2004, the Friends for Jim Carlson Committee provided the Board with a copy of a check dated October 24, 2004, returning the \$50 contribution to Mr. Loewe.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on November 17, 2004.

Based on the record before it, the Board issues the following:

EVIDENTIARY FINDINGS

1. Curtis Loewe, a registered lobbyist, made a \$50 contribution to the Friends for Jim Carlson Committee on March 9, 2004.
2. Minn. Stat. §10A.273, subd. 1 (b), prohibits a lobbyist from making a contribution to a principal candidate committee during a regular session of the legislature. The regular 2004 legislative Session was held from February 2, 2004, to May 16, 2004.
3. The Friends for Jim Carlson Committee returned the \$50 contribution to Mr. Loewe.

Based on the above Statement of the Evidence, the Board makes the following:

FINDING CONCERNING PROBABLE CAUSE

There is probable cause to believe that Curtis Loewe violated Minn. Stat. §10A.273, subd. 1 (b), by making a contribution to a principal campaign committee during the regular session of the legislature in 2004.

Based on the above Finding Concerning Probable Cause, the Board issues the following:

ORDER

1. In lieu of forwarding the above public finding of probable cause to the appropriate county attorney to pursue a judgment in district court, the Board imposes a civil penalty of \$50 on Curtis Loewe for making a contribution during the regular 2004 legislative session.
2. Curtis Loewe is directed to forward to the Board payment of the civil penalty, by check or money order payable to the STATE OF MINNESOTA, within thirty days after receipt of this order.
3. If Curtis Loewe 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 Minn. Stat. § 10A.273.
4. The Board investigation of this matter is entered into the public record in accordance with Minn. Stat. §10A.02, subd. 11, and upon payment by Curtis Loewe of the civil penalty imposed herein, the matter is concluded.

Dated: November 17, 2004

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure
Board