

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

**CONCILIATION**  
**AGREEMENT**

In the matter of the Minnesotans for Benjamin Kruse Committee (#16910);

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

1. The Minnesotans for Benjamin Kruse Committee (the Committee) is the principal campaign committee of Senator Benjamin Kruse. During 2011, the Committee accepted \$3,050 in contributions from special sources. All of the special source contributions were from lobbyists. The total amount of these contributions exceeded by \$450 the applicable limit on aggregate contributions from special sources, which for a state senate candidate was \$2,600. The \$450 in excess contributions was not returned within 60 days, and thus, is deemed accepted under Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
  
2. By letter dated February 17, 2012, staff notified Senator Kruse of the potential violation. In a phone conversation with staff, Senator Kruse acknowledged the contributions from lobbyists were correctly reported.

3. Board records show that this is the first calendar year in which the Committee reported acceptance of contributions that exceeded the applicable aggregate contribution limit. The Committee registered with the Board on June 24, 2009.

4. The parties agree that the Committee accepted excessive contributions from special sources resulting in an inadvertent violation of Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.27, subdivision 11, in calendar year 2011.


5. The Candidate hereby agrees to return \$450 to lobbyists who contributed to the Committee in 2011. Copies of the checks 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 Candidate agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$450, 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.

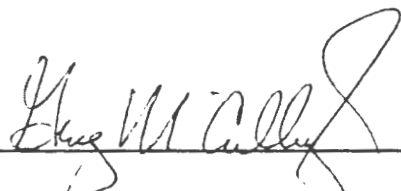
7. The Committee hereby agrees to forward to the Board \$450 by check or money order payable to the State of Minnesota within 30 days after the date this agreement is signed by both parties. It is agreed by the parties that payment of the civil penalty of \$450, the return of the excess contributions, 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 \$450, return the excess contributions, and provide copies of the checks 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: July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Senator Benjamin Kruse

Approved by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

By   
\_\_\_\_\_ Dated: April 3, 2012  
Greg McCullough, Chair

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board