

Testimony regarding House File 1168

My name is Kyle Tonn, a resident of Maple Grove and District 37B.

Throughout the last decade and a half, I have served as a Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, or general campaign finance advisor to many political party units and candidate committees regulated by the MN Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board. As someone who has issued hundreds of PCR receipts, I am here today to speak in favor of HF1168, a bill that would modernize the process of receiving and claiming a political contribution refund under Minnesota's PCR program.

The electronic process introduced by this bill certainly makes receiving a PCR receipt easier, significantly simplifying the refund-claiming process as well.

As for whether or not the claim process should be solely electronic, I believe keeping a paper claim form option should not overly burden the Department of Revenue, since it is likely most submissions would use the new electronic system. However, I would respect the Department of Revenue if they disagreed with my opinion on that point.

In my opinion, the extra burden from this bill will be carried by the unit treasurers like me. They will be required to enter contribution data more frequently into the campaign finance online software in order for PCR claim codes to be created. In my opinion, this is not a bad thing, as it is never a good idea to leave all your committee's data entry until it's reporting time.

As a current party unit Treasurer, this new system would allow me to send PCR receipts electronically via email, or be able to combine my thank you letters with information regarding claiming their refund under the PCR program, which will significantly reduce the amount of paper I issue as a treasurer.

To the representatives of the Department of Revenue who may see this, just letting you know ClaimMyPCR.com is available.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.