

CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
EDUCATION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

NOTICE OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION VIOLATION OF PROCUREMENT CODE

1. Statutory Authority: Section 50-37 of the Illinois Procurement Code, [30 ILCS 500/50-37], prohibits business entities with contracts and solicitations worth in excess of \$50,000 in combined annual value pending with a given officeholder responsible for awarding the contracts from making campaign contributions to campaign committees established to promote the candidacy of the officeholder or any other declared candidate for that office. The prohibition also extends to contributions made by various affiliated persons and businesses of a business entity that is subject to the prohibition. Section 50-37 requires that notice of violation of the prohibition and the penalty imposed is to be published in the *Illinois Register*.
2. Name of Contributor: Tim Cooling
3. Date of Violation: March 18, 2026
4. Description of Violation: Tim Cooling, an affiliated person of the business entity Cooling Land Concepts, LLC, made a contribution of \$250 to Bailey for Illinois, a campaign committee established to support the election of Darren Bailey to the Office of Governor. At the time of the contribution, Darren Bailey was a declared candidate for the Office of Governor, and Cooling Land Concepts, LLC had submitted a bid for a contract with Northern Illinois University, the total annual combined value of which was in excess of \$50,000.
5. Summary of Action Taken by the Agency: Section 50-37 provides that State contracts with a business entity that violates the campaign contribution prohibition are voidable at the discretion of the Chief Procurement Officer. The Chief Procurement Officer for Public Institutions of Higher Education has notified Tim Cooling of the apparent violation, reviewed responsive material provided by Tim Cooling, and has considered the value, status, and necessity of the contract. In addition, the Chief Procurement Officer has taken into consideration the recognition by Tim Cooling of the violation and his understanding of the necessity to avoid such situations in the future. We find that voiding affected contracts, bids or proposals would not be in the best interest of the State.

As required by Section 50-37(e) of the Procurement Code, Bailey for Illinois is required to pay to the State an amount equal to the value of the contribution within 30 days of the publication of this notice.