



FIONA MA, CPA
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
MEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

March 7, 2016

To: Honorable Assembly Member Phillip Y. Ting

CC: Members of the Committee on Revenue and Taxation

State Capitol, Room 3123

Sacramento, Ca 95814

Assembly Bill 1559 (Dodd) extends the amount of time the State Board of Equalization (SBOE) can extend tax or fee payments for businesses in natural disaster areas to 90 days. Current law permits the SBOE to extend tax or fee payments to businesses in natural disaster areas to 30 days.

In 2015, the State of California was plagued with historic wildfires. The Valley Fire in Lake County burned 78,000 acres including 1955 and 66 businesses. The Butte Fire, which burned simultaneously with the Lake Fire, engulfed 70,000 acres and destroyed 800 structures.

Currently businesses and taxpayers in these areas are still repairing their businesses and their homes due to the devastation of the Lake and Butte fires. Recovering from the impacts of these fires will take years. In addition, the El Nino weather pattern will increase the chance of mudslides in areas that experienced wildfire damage.

The State of California is prone to many other natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and mudslides. On August 24, 2014 Napa County experienced 6.0 earthquake that destroyed homes and business. Also, in March of 2012 Crescent City was hit with a tsunami that caused millions of dollars of damage and killed one person. The SBOE issued an extension of tax and fee payments in both of these areas.

Extending the amount of time businesses have to pay taxes and fees from the SBOE will aid in the recovery efforts in areas affected by natural disasters. Thirty days is simply not enough time for businesses to recover from a natural disaster and pay taxes to the SBOE. For these reasons I support AB 1559.

In Peace and Friendship

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Fiona Ma".

Chairwoman Fiona Ma, CPA

