



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

April 7, 2016

Senator Ben Allen, Chair

Senate Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments
State Capitol, Room 2054
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SENATE BILL 816 (HILL) - STATE BOE: MEMBERS: CONTRIBUTIONS
SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Allen,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 816, which requires disclosure and disqualification of Board of Equalization (BOE) Members who receive *any* contribution from a party, agent or participant in a pending adjudicatory proceeding within twelve months prior to that proceeding.

The purpose of this bill to prohibit Board Members from participating in adjudicatory proceedings when they have accepted any contribution from the taxpayer or any other person related to the case.

While I don't believe Board Members have been unduly influenced or taken inappropriate actions under current law, these are reasonable restrictions that will strengthen public confidence that the Board decides cases based on facts and the law, independent of inappropriate influence.

SB 816 will not create a burden for Board Members since contributions are currently tracked. Therefore, I am pleased to support the bill and urge your "aye" vote on SB 816 (Hill).

In Peace and Friendship,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Fiona Ma", is written over a blue horizontal line.

Chairwoman Fiona Ma, CPA