



State Board of Equalization

News Release

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3rd District – Rolling Hills Estates

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Beware of Misleading Business Solicitations

Michelle Steel, Vice Chair of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), today reminded taxpayers to be wary of misleading business solicitations from companies that mimic official correspondence from a governmental agency.

Recently, businesses in California have reported to the BOE that they have received notices from the “California Labor Compliance Bureau,” requesting immediate payment of a “processing fee” of \$275. The California Labor Compliance Bureau is not a government agency. The notices use publicly available information such as BOE account numbers and industry codes to make them appear to be official correspondence.

The “processing fee” is purportedly for labor-related notices that California employers are required to post at their business premises informing employees of their legal rights under the National Labor Relations Act. The notices in question are available free of charge from the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) on their website here: <https://www.nlr.gov/poster>.

The BOE is not affiliated in any way with the California Labor Compliance Bureau. Correspondence from the BOE will always feature the BOE’s title and/or logo and contain contact information. If you receive a notice and question whether it is official BOE correspondence, you should contact your local BOE office (a list of contact numbers for BOE field offices can be found here: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/info/phone.htm>), or contact the BOE’s Information Call Center at 800-400-7115.

The NLRB can assist businesses with questions regarding required notices at 202-273-0064.

Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006 and re-elected in 2010, Michelle Steel serves as *Southern California’s elected taxpayer advocate*. In December 2007, Steel discovered the Board of Equalization had delayed the return of millions of dollars in security deposits owed to California businesses. Procedures were changed due to Steel’s decisive leadership. Following her investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses. To date, over \$100 million in security deposits have been returned to taxpayers.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$50 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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