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April 27, 2015

Assembly California Legislature PHILIP Y. TING

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, NINETEENTH DISTRICT



COMMITTEES CHAIR: REVENUE AND TAXATION BUDGET BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2 ON EDUCATION FINANCE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND TOXIC MATERIALS

SELECT COMMITTEES CHAIR: ASIA/CALIFORNIA TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION

Honorable Fiona Ma Member, Board of Equalization, District 2 Chair, Legislative Committee 1201 K Street, Suite 710 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for Support on AB 681 - BOE Survey Reform

Dear Chairwoman Ma,

I appreciate that the Board of Equalization (BOE) Legislative Committee is considering a position of Support on my Assembly Bill 681. Due to a legislative conflict, I am unable to attend the Tuesday, April 28, 2015 meeting of the Legislative Committee when this item will be considered, but I am thankful for the opportunity to be able to share why this is an important bill for taxpayers across California.

As the former Assessor/Recorder of the City and County of San Francisco, I understand how important the Assessment Practices Survey Program is to both Assessors and the BOE, as it helps ensure property is assessed properly throughout the state. However, the final survey reports can take up to two years to complete, and this prolonged length of time prevents many Assessors from making immediate and necessary improvements to assessment practices and procedures.

I introduced AB 681 to improve the efficiency of these surveys by allowing the BOE to focus its energy on a larger portion of the assessment roll in a shorter period of time. Under a new three-tiered system, the BOE will be able to reduce the time needed to complete a survey report by 50% to a full year. Along with other improvements that allow former Assessors to address matters that occurred during their term, AB 681 will ensure surveys reveal meaningful and timely information.

I appreciate the willingness of the BOE to work with me on this important issue in order to provide more consistent assessment practices across the state. Thank you for your positive consideration of AB 681.

Sincerely,

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Philip Y. Ting Assemblymember, 19th District

cc: Members, Board of Equalization

