



SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)

VICE CHAIR
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD

August 18, 2016

Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas, Chair
Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation
1020 N Street, Room 167A
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1559 (DODD) – BOE: RETURNS AND PAYMENT: EXTENSION: DISASTER ▪ CONCURRENCE VOTE ▪

Dear Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas:

I am writing to respectfully request your support when Assembly Bill 1559 returns to your committee for a concurrence vote. The bill seeks to extend the amount of time—from 30 to 90 days—the Board of Equalization may grant a taxpayer to defer payment of specified fees and taxes in the event of a disaster. On Monday, the bill passed the Senate with a vote of 38-0.

Two of the counties I represent—Kern and Los Angeles—recently experienced large wildfires. Additionally, as of this morning, the Bluecut Fire in San Bernardino County continues to burn with only 4% containment. An evacuation order was issued for 82,000 residents in the Cajon Pass area. In Chairwoman Fiona Ma's district, three counties—San Luis Obispo, Monterey and Lake—are also experiencing devastating wildfires. The public and private financial impacts will be significant for these rural areas and their residents.

As you know, California experiences many disasters and granting temporary relief following a disaster, such as a wildfire, earthquake or mudslide, will help individuals and business owners direct their limited resources where they are needed most—into restoring their livelihoods.

Even under normal conditions, doing business in California is challenging. Extending payment deadlines by 60 days in the event of a disaster seems a reasonable accommodation to give taxpayers more time to recover and prepare tax returns. Therefore, I urge your support when the concurrence vote is next Tuesday.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Runner".

GEORGE RUNNER
1st District

cc: Assemblymember Dodd