



**SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)**

VICE CHAIR  
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION  
**CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD**

April 7, 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 ▪ SUPPORT ▪**

Dear Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas:

I am pleased to support Assembly Bill 1559, an urgency measure that extends 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 natural or economic disaster.

Last September, Calaveras and Amador Counties experienced a devastating wildfire—known as the Butte Fire—that consumed over 70,000 acres and destroyed more than 800 structures. Public and private financial impacts were significant for these rural counties and their residents. Granting temporary relief following a disaster, such as a wildfire, earthquake or tsunami, 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 natural or economic disaster seems a reasonable accommodation to give taxpayers more time to recover and pay taxes. Therefore, I urge your support when the bill is heard on April 11.

Sincerely,

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

GEORGE RUNNER  
1<sup>st</sup> District

cc: Assemblymember Dodd  
Julia King, Policy Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus