



SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)

MEMBER
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD

February 7, 2013

The Honorable Rob Bonta
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: OPPOSE AB 180 (Bonta)

Dear Assembly Member Bonta,

I must respectfully oppose your Assembly Bill 180. Taxes should be applied to specific merchandise items only when there is clear causation between the product and the public problem revenue collected would address. The purchase of ammunition by law abiding citizens does not cause crime.

In addition, there is evidence that taxes of this nature do not produce the revenue expected. As prices of ammunition increase by \$5 per box of 100 bullets, we can expect that Californians will turn to out of state dealers, or worse, the underground economy. That is exactly what has happened with cigarettes – a recent study by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy found that one third of the cigarettes consumed in California were purchased from someone other than a licensed California dealer. The state won't collect significantly more revenue, but in-state business owners will suffer, and consumers will be charged yet another inequitable tax.

High crime is a serious problem. All Californians, not just gun owners, should be a part of the solution.

Sincerely,

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

GEORGE RUNNER
Second District