



June 23, 2016

Honorable Shirley Weber  
Chair of the Elections and Redistricting Committee  
Capitol Office  
P.O. Box 942849, Room 3123  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0079

**RE: Senate Bill 816 (Hill) VIA FAX – (916) 319-2179**

Dear Chair Weber,

The West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce respectfully opposes SB 816 (Hill) because it discriminates against businesses and small contributors with limited funds and public access to the political process. The contribution limits in this measure would be the lowest in the nation, and the restrictions it places on small contributors are so onerous that they impede the ability of small contributors to participate in the political process, as well as the Board of Equalization's administrative hearing process, without risk of violating this law and with greater complication than other similarly positioned contributors.

The bill erroneously presumes that the adjudication duties of the members of the Board of Equalization are not significantly different from that of judges. However, in accordance with Government Code sections 15609-15609.5, the decisions of the BOE do not have the finality of a court or other adjudicatory agency, as the BOE is an "administrative" adjudicatory body, exempt from the Administrative Procedures Act, whose decisions are subject to a *de novo* appeal by a taxpayer to any California superior court. The decisions of judges, legislators, other constitutional officers, and many commissioners are far more precedential and impactful than those of the BOE. Yet, even judges have a relatively relaxed contribution cap and are allowed to accept up to \$1,500 from any party or lawyer in a proceeding that is before the court, in contrast to the provisions of this bill.

We agree with the courts and other studies that campaign contributions do not necessarily influence the votes of elected officials, and the perception or appearance of influence does not make it so. Study after study support that most elected officials, including members of the BOE, base their votes on their party line, the law, the facts, and their personal value system.

Please vote NO on SB 816.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Genevieve Morrill", written in a cursive style.

Genevieve Morrill  
President and CEO