



SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)

MEMBER
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD

April 30, 2013

The Honorable Cathleen Galgiani
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT SB 688 (Galgiani)

Dear Senator Galgiani,

I am writing to express my support for your Senate Bill 688. This Board of Equalization sponsored measure will exempt from sales and use tax drugs and medicines used, furnished or sold by a licensed veterinarian, government animal shelter or non-profit animal welfare organization.

Under current law veterinarians, shelters and animal welfare groups are considered to be the consumer of the product and must absorb or build into their cost the tax paid to their vendor or remitted to the state as use tax. This bill will eliminate that provision and level the playing field for veterinarians operating in the State of California. It will also cut costs for pet owners and discourage purchases of medications for their animals from less safe or reliable sources than licensed veterinarians.

For the reasons stated, as well as my commitment to lower tax burdens, I am in support of SB 688. Thank you for introducing this helpful measure.

Sincerely,

GEORGE RUNNER
Second District