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San Bernardino Seminar Aims to Help Small Businesses Succeed **Join BOE and Partners for Free Tax Seminar and Resource Expo**

Sacramento – Business owners, and those who'd like to own a business, can get answers to many of their questions about taxes and loan programs, and learn about Web and smart phone services to help them succeed at the Small Business Tax Seminar and Resource Expo. This event will be held on Monday, October 8th in San Bernardino, and is sponsored by Board of Equalization (BOE) Member George Runner, BOE Vice Chair Michelle Steel, and Senator Bob Dutton.

"Small businesses are critical to the economic recovery of our state," said Runner. "We cannot succeed without the jobs and services that small businesses create and sustain. This event will help business owners by providing vital resources, information and connections."

"In today's tough economic climate, it is our duty to provide business owners as much information as possible to succeed," said Steel. "This free seminar is a great opportunity for taxpayers to interact directly with state and federal tax agencies; to learn about their rights as taxpayers, and how to navigate our complicated state and federal tax codes."

Representatives from the BOE, the Employment Development Department, the Franchise Tax Board, Small Business Administration, and the Coastline Institute for Economic Development will present information and answer questions on a wide variety of subjects. Highlights include tax essentials for small businesses, forms of business ownership, and social media marketing.

Event: Small Business Tax Seminar and Resource Expo

Date: Monday, October 8, 2012

Time: 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (check-in at 11:30 a.m.)

Place: San Bernardino City Council Chamber
300 North D Street
San Bernardino, CA 92418
(Free Parking)

Register: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/cgi-bin/seminar.cgi?FLAG=176> or call 1-888-847-9652

For more information: http://www.boe.ca.gov/sutax/pdf/SB_SBS_Invite_10-08-12_web.pdf

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Other helpful in-person classes offered by BOE can be found online:
www.boe.ca.gov/info/VirtualSeminars/seminars_inperson.htm.

The BOE also offers online seminars on a variety of topics:
www.boe.ca.gov/info/VirtualSeminars/seminars_online.htm.

Editor's note: Listen to the 30-second audio public service announcement (PSA) for this event at http://www.boe.ca.gov/info/sb_psa_30.mp3.

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Elected in November 2010, George Runner represents the State Board of Equalization's Second District. He is a leading advocate for California taxpayers. Runner has worked to improve California's tax policies and practices and to create and retain more private sector jobs in our state. Prior to his election to the Board, Runner served twelve years in the State Legislature, authoring the well-known California Amber Alert and California's Blue Alert. As a thoughtful conservative, his legislative priorities included improving the economy, business growth, education excellence, and public safety for all Californians. As a member of the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, Runner consistently led the fight against tax increases and supported tax relief for families and businesses.

Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006 and re-elected in 2010, Michelle Steel serves as *Southern California's elected taxpayer advocate*. In December 2007, Steel discovered the Board of Equalization had delayed the return of millions of dollars in security deposits owed to California businesses. Procedures were changed due to Steel's decisive leadership. Following her investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses. To date, over \$100 million in security deposits have been returned to taxpayers.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$53.7 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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