



For Immediate Release
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Runner to Host Final 2013 Fire Fee Tele-Townhall

SACRAMENTO – Taxpayers across the state are registering to participate in a 6 p.m. telephone townhall on Tuesday, September 17 regarding the confusing and controversial California Fire Prevention Fee. This is the last in a series of regional townhalls Runner is holding throughout his district this year.

“The state is currently mailing bills to nearly 800,000 rural Californians demanding they pay a so-called fire ‘fee,’ but not one dime of it can be used to fight the fires currently burning across our state,” said Runner. “Many individuals share my concern about the fairness and cost of this tax. As their elected taxpayer advocate, I want to hear their concerns and answer their questions.”

During the call, Runner and other participating elected officials will discuss the latest fire “fee” news, including the pending lawsuit, and answer questions from callers.

Taxpayers in Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne counties are invited to join the call, but others are welcome as well.

Tuesday’s telephone townhall is co-sponsored by State Senators Tom Berryhill and Anthony Cannella and Assemblymembers Kristin Olsen and Frank Bigelow.

Members of the public who would like to participate should register by visiting boe.ca.gov/townhall or by calling (916) 324-4970. Taxpayers who pre-register will receive a telephone call at the start of the event inviting them to connect to the townhall.

Nearly 800,000 California property owners—about half of whom live in Runner’s Board of Equalization District—must pay the annual Fire Prevention Fee. The “fee” was enacted by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown in 2011.

Elected in November 2010, George Runner represents more than nine million Californians as a member of the State Board of Equalization. Runner keeps taxpayers informed of the latest fire tax news and information at calfirefee.com.

Editor's Note: A 30-second Public Service Announcement (PSA) by George Runner is available as an [MP3 audio file](#).

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