



**SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)**

VICE CHAIR  
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION  
**CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD**

May 13, 2015

Assembly Member Jim Gomez, Chair  
Assembly Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1202 (MAYES) – SRA FIRE FEE REDUCTION ▪ REQUEST TO REMOVE FROM SUSPENSE FILE ▪**

Dear Assemblyman Gomez,

I am pleased to support Assembly Bill 1202, which would provide a credit to property owners who currently pay a local district tax for fire prevention services. Approximately 95% of properties subject to the Fire Prevention Fee are also within a local fire district, which means most rural property owners pay double for similar services.

Under existing law require, \$150 is charged for each habitable structure located within a State Responsibility Area. However, CAL FIRE regulations allow a \$35 fee reduction to property owners also living within the boundaries of a local agency that provides fire protection services. By allowing fee payers to subtract the actual amount they pay to a local fire protection agency, AB 1202 would give more relief to doubly levied property owners.

More than 700,000 Californians receive an annual bill, with just over half of them located in the rural areas of my district. Many of these fee payers live on fixed incomes, and the double burden they face by paying both state and local fire fees and make it more difficult to make ends meet. Therefore, I urge passage of the bill off the Suspense File in your committee on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

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

GEORGE RUNNER  
1<sup>st</sup> District

cc: Assembly Member Mayes  
Eric Swanson, Fiscal Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus