



SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)

VICE CHAIR
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD

July 1, 2015

Senator Ricardo Lara, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1277 (BROUGH) - TAX ADMINISTRATION: TAXPAYERS' RIGHTS ADVOCATE ▪ SUPPORT ▪

Dear Senator Lara,

I am writing to urge your support of Assembly Bill 1277, which will increase the threshold of funds the Board of Equalization's Taxpayers' Rights Advocate is authorized to restore to the taxpayer upon a finding that the levy or notice to withhold threatens the health or welfare of the taxpayer, his or her spouse and/or dependents. This bill would increase the current amount the Advocate is authorized to order returned from \$1,500 to \$2,300.

As an elected member of the Board, I frequently hear from taxpayers, including many small business owners, who are struggling to get back on their feet as a result of California's economic downturn. When these taxpayers fall behind on their tax payments, the state may issue a levy or notice to withhold, which can sometimes negatively impact their ability to provide basic necessities for their family.

AB 1277 remedies this problem by providing the Advocate the needed discretion to restore additional funds, thus helping struggling business owners. I am pleased to support the bill and urge your "aye" vote when it is heard on July 6.

Sincerely,

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

GEORGE RUNNER
1st District

cc: Assembly Member Brough
Joe Shinstock, Consultant, Senate Republican Fiscal Office