



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

MEMBER  
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION  
*CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD*

**Date: January 30, 2012**

**To: Assembly Member Wes Chesbro, Chairman  
Assembly Natural Resource Committee**

**From: GEORGE RUNNER**

**RE: AB 1506 (Jeffries) – SUPPORT**

I am writing to urge your support of Assembly Bill 1506. This legislation will repeal an illegal tax and ensure that rural Californians are not taxed a second time for services they are already paying for through local property taxes or special district taxes.

When a tax increase is rapidly pushed through the legislature without a policy or fiscal hearing, it is very often a sign that the Legislature has overstepped the will of the people. ABx1 29, which imposes a \$150 fire prevention tax on California's rural residents within State Responsibility Areas (SRA), was just such a measure.

AB 1506 will repeal the provisions of ABx1 29 and protect taxpayers from unfair and unconstitutional taxation.

Many counties, cities and districts contract with CAL-FIRE for fire protection services and pay a substantial fee funded through property taxes. The additional increased tax imposed by ABx1 29 will place more burdens and costs on CAL-FIRE and the State Board of Equalization while providing no additional fire protection for Californians.

Rather than picking the pockets of rural Californians as a means of balancing the State budget, the Legislature should repeal this tax and uphold the State Constitution. Improved fire protection—not illegal revenue increases—should be the aim of your legislative efforts.

Sincerely,

GEORGE RUNNER  
SECOND DISTRICT