



SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)

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

January 21, 2014

The Honorable Tim Donnelly  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2002  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SUPPORT AB 1519 (Donnelly)**

Dear Assemblyman Donnelly,

I am pleased to sponsor AB 1519, which would alleviate the burdensome penalty placed on taxpayers who appeal their Fire Prevention Fee bill and are denied.

Created by the Legislature and Governor as part of the 2011 Budget, the Fire Prevention Fee charges property owners \$150 for each habitable structure located in a State Responsibility Area (SRA). Although the Board of Equalization is responsible for mailing the bills, current law provides for an appeals process handled by CAL-FIRE.

Under current law, a taxpayer who files an appeal of their Fire Prevention Fee bill and has their appeal denied are charged an egregious 20% monthly penalty if they fail to pay the fee within 30 days of losing their appeal, even if the taxpayer is participating in an installment payment arrangement.

This penalty is substantially higher than any other penalty charged by the Board of Equalization. By repealing the 20% monthly penalty for taxpayers who have their appeals denied, AB 1519 will bring the Fire Prevention Fee into conformity with other state issued fees. For these reasons, I am proud to sponsor the measure.

Sincerely,

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

GEORGE RUNNER