



SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)

MEMBER
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD

May 11, 2016

Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ASSEMBLY BILL 1828 (DODD) - STATE BOE: MEMBERS: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ▪ SUPPORT ▪

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez,

I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 1828, which amends the Kopp Conflict of Interest Act of 1990 related to contribution limits and disclosure requirements applicable to Board of Equalization (BOE) Members, and revises other aspects of their fundraising.

The purpose of AB 1828 is to remove the perception of potential conflicts of interest created when Board Members accept contributions from parties, or participants or their employees who have or recently had pending adjudicatory proceedings before the Board. While I don't believe Board Members have been unduly influenced or taken inappropriate actions under current law, these are reasonable restrictions that will strengthen public confidence that the Board decides cases based on facts and the law, independent of inappropriate influence.

According to the BOE's analysis, "Additional costs may be incurred by individual Board Members' offices to comply with the additional tracking requirements under this bill. These costs range from absorbable to an estimated \$673,000 in the first year, and absorbable to \$516,000 in the second year and ongoing."

As you are aware, there are five Board Members. Three Members—Ma, Yee and I—will be able to absorb the costs, while the remaining Members—Harkey and Horton—believe they need additional staff to carry out the requirements of the bill. Since Board Members are currently required to track contributions, I support AB 1828 and urge your "aye" vote when it is heard before your committee.

Sincerely,

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

GEORGE RUNNER
1st District