



SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)

MEMBER
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD

February 20, 2014

The Honorable Diane Harkey
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4116
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT AB 1954 (Harkey)

Dear Assemblymember Harkey,

I am pleased to sponsor AB 1954, which would provide taxpayers with an additional method for appealing their Fire Prevention Fee bills.

Created by the Legislature and Governor as part of the 2011 Budget, the Fire Prevention Fee charges property owners \$152.33 for each habitable structure located in a State Responsibility Area (SRA). Although the Board of Equalization (BOE) is responsible for collecting the fee, current law provides for an appeals process handled by CAL-FIRE.

CAL-FIRE is not the appropriate authority to make decisions about Fire Prevention Fee bills, as it directly benefits from the money received from this fee. AB 1954 would give taxpayers an additional, unbiased, level of protection by also allowing them to appeal their bills to the BOE.

For these reasons, I am proud to sponsor this measure.

Sincerely,

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

GEORGE RUNNER