



SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)

MEMBER
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD

March 14, 2014

The Honorable Mark Wyland
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4048
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT SENATE BILL 1413 (Wyland)

Dear Senator Wyland,

I am pleased to sponsor SB 1413, which would increase the payment due date of the Fire Prevention Fee from 30 days from the date of assessment to 60 days.

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). More than 800,000 rural Californians receive a yearly Fire Prevention Fee bill, due 30 days from the date on the notice.

Due to the rural nature of those being billed, many individuals do not receive their bills in a timely manner. Additionally, many of these individuals are on fixed incomes, making it nearly impossible for them to pay their Fire Prevention Fee by the 30-day deadline.

Increasing the payment due date of the Fire Prevention Fee from 30 to 60 days will ensure greater compliance with the law by giving all owners of habitable structures in an SRA more time to receive their bills. SB 1413 will also give those taxpayers on fixed incomes more time to adjust their budgets.

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

Sincerely,

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

GEORGE RUNNER