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Runner Says Brown Budget Hurts Jobs

Board of Equalization Member Senator George Runner today issued the following statement in response to Governor Jerry Brown's proposed budget:

"Californians are confronted with a huge budget crisis. The fact is for too many years we've been spending more money than we should. More money has been going out than revenues coming in.

"The real answer to this problem isn't about how much we can cut. The real answer is getting Californians back to work.

"We can solve our budget problem and the best way to do that is by getting Californians jobs. I'm going to be looking at this budget through that lens.

"I applaud the Governor for proposing difficult spending cuts. But I can't support proposals to hurt private sector jobs through punitive tax hikes.

"Californians have already spoken on the issue of taxes by resoundingly rejecting every proposed tax increase on recent ballots. A special election to hike taxes is a waste of taxpayers' time and money.

"Certainly we have to make some hard decision and cuts are necessary. But if we make it harder for the private sector to create employment than this is the wrong way to go.

"Enterprise zones are California's only remaining public policy measure aimed at keeping private sector jobs in our state. Abolishing them would be irresponsible. Instead we should make the whole state an enterprise zone.

"The long-term outlook for California should be great. California has wonderful opportunity. It's up to us to take full use of the blessings and opportunities we have here in this state."

***** Watch a video of Senator Runner's budget reaction at www.youtube.com/sengeorrunner *****

Elected in November 2010, taxpayer advocate George Runner represents the 2nd District of the Board of Equalization. Runner was sworn in as Second District Board Member on January 3, 2011. Prior to his election to the Board, Runner served twelve years in the State Legislature. As a thoughtful conservative, his legislative priorities included improving the economy, business growth, education excellence, and family preservation for all Californians. As a member of the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, Runner consistently led the fight against tax increases and supported tax relief for families and businesses.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$48 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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