



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Vice Chair Michelle Steel

3rd District – Orange County

Cynthia Bridges
Executive Director
www.boe.ca.gov

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2014 Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearings in Sacramento May 22

Sacramento – Individuals and businesses with ideas or concerns about the administration and oversight of California's business and property taxes are invited to attend the Board of Equalization's (BOE) annual Taxpayers' Bill of Rights hearings in Sacramento on May 22, 2014.

"It is a fundamental right of taxpayers to have their views and concerns heard by the government," said BOE Vice Chair Michelle Steel. "These hearings will enable taxpayers to come before the Board with comments on issues related to the business and property tax laws administered or overseen by the BOE, including sales and use tax, fuel, excise and property taxes."

The Taxpayers' Bill of Rights hearings begin at approximately 1:30 p.m. at the following location:

When: Thursday, May 22, 2014

**Where: Board of Equalization Headquarters Building
1st Floor Board Room, Room 121
450 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814**

Individuals interested in making a presentation at either the Business Taxpayers' or the Property Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearing are invited to contact the BOE Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office by calling toll-free 1-888-324-2798, or by email at www.boe.ca.gov/info/emailtra.htm.

Enacted in January 1989, the Harris-Katz California Taxpayers' Bill of Rights requires the BOE to ensure that the rights of California taxpayers are protected during the assessment and collection of sales and uses taxes. The Taxpayers' Bill of Rights was expanded in 1993 to include special tax programs such as excise, fuel, and alcohol taxes, and the Morgan Property Taxpayers' Bill of Rights was added in 1994. The Board is required by law to conduct public Bill of Rights hearings annually.

Editor's note: The following PSA (30-second audio) is available for your use.

More information about the annual hearings: www.boe.ca.gov/meetings/heartra.htm.
Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office: www.boe.ca.gov/tra/tra.htm

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Taxpayers' Rights Advocate's 2012-13 Annual Report: www.boe.ca.gov/tra/tra1213.pdf

Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearings are Webcast at www.boe.ca.gov/meetings/board_hearing_audio.htm

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Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006 and re-elected in 2010, Michelle Steel serves as *Southern California's elected taxpayer advocate*. In December 2007, Steel discovered the Board of Equalization had delayed the return of millions of dollars in security deposits owed to California businesses. Procedures were changed due to Steel's decisive leadership. Following her investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses. To date, over \$100 million in security deposits have been returned to taxpayers.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects \$56 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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