



Targeting Waste • Promoting Efficiency

707 Broadway, Suite 905, San Diego, CA 92101 • P: (619) 234-6423 • F: (619) 234-7403 • www.sdcta.org

May 3, 2011

Re: SDCTA Opposition to Senate Bill 653

Dear Senator/Assemblymember:

On behalf of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association (SDCTA), I am writing to express our opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 653, which would dramatically alter the taxing structure of California and its local jurisdictions.

Currently local jurisdictions, including school districts, already have the ability under the California Constitution to increase local taxes to generate revenue for various services and/or infrastructure projects. Voters have approved numerous tax measures when these jurisdictions have demonstrated a justifiable need to increase the taxes offered under State law.

The State acts as lead for other taxing mechanisms that are filtered through various departments to eliminate confusion between taxpayers and the thousands of municipalities, counties, public agencies and school districts. SB 653 would undoubtedly place even greater burden on California taxpayers who are already saddled with the third highest state income tax, highest state sales tax rate, highest gasoline tax, and fifth highest unemployment rate, in the nation.

Rather than making statewide reforms, reducing expenses, and implementing efficiencies, the State is instead focusing its efforts on ways to make it easier to either implement or increase a multitude of taxes that would increase the cost of living and doing business in California. While Sacramento is looking to pass the buck on to the local level, we believe it would only be reasonable to see a corresponding decrease in State taxes since taxpayers would no longer be requiring additional services provided by the State.

For the reasons stated above, we urge you to oppose SB 653.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lani Lutar", written in a cursive style.

Lani Lutar
President & CEO

LL/cjc