



August 28, 2023

Yvette M. Stowers
Executive Director
Board of Equalization
State of California
PO BOX 942879
Sacramento, California 94279-0120

RE: 2023 Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearing, Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Dear Ms. Stowers:

On behalf of the membership of the California Alliance of Taxpayer Advocates (CATA), I want to underscore the important function of the State Board of Equalization (BOE) and, in particular, its Taxpayers' Rights Advocate (TRA) Office.

As you know, CATA is a non-profit trade association made up of tax consultants and tax attorneys representing taxpayers before county assessors, local assessment appeals boards and the BOE. CATA's purpose is to protect the rights of California property taxpayers.

The two primary functions of the TRA Office are to ensure fair and equitable treatment of taxpayers in the assessment and collection of property taxes and to recommend changes in policies, procedures, and laws to improve and ease taxpayer compliance.

We want to take this opportunity commend the TRA for their excellent outreach efforts and strong efforts toward explaining complex issues to taxpayers.

We are well aware of that the Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office is committed to promoting outreach and education to help local taxpayers with understanding property tax laws, and to increase their awareness of property tax savings that may be available to them. We are also aware that as part of this commitment, the TRA Office publishes educational materials written in simple, non-technical terms, referred to as Information Sheets, which are available on the BOE website.

We want to thank the TRA Office and the BOE for promoting this outreach and education.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



James DePasquale
Chairman and President
California Alliance of Taxpayer Advocates

cc: Honorable Antonio Vazquez, Third District, Chair
Honorable Sally Lieber, Second District, Vice Chair
Honorable Ted Gaines, First District
Honorable Mike Schaefer, Fourth District
Honorable Malia M. Cohen, State Controller
Lisa Thompson, Chief, Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office