

From: Stuart Flashman
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 3:18 PM
To: comment, cotce
Subject: Comments on Commission's tax proposals

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Commission:

I am writing as a California resident, homeowner, and small business owner to comment on the Commission's proposed recommendations. I submit these comments in response to reports that the California Chamber of Commerce and some other business groups have submitted comments objecting to instituting a "split roll" property tax or a "carbon tax" as being detrimental to California businesses. As a sole proprietor business that is already subject to having my business property reassessed upon purchase or sale, I believe that the current system unfairly favors large corporate interest that are able to use various ploys to avoid reassessment. Certainly, that was not the voters' intent when enacting Proposition 13. It is long overdue to correct that inequitable loophole. Why should a large corporate owner of commercial property be able to avoid reassessment when the business entity owning the property changes hands, when I, as an individual owner, would be subject to reassessment? A split-roll system that periodically reassesses all commercial property would be a far fairer system.

As for a carbon tax, it is utterly clear that some method needs to be found to encourage energy efficiency and reduce CO2 output here in California. With Federal legislation still bogged down in Congress, California should look at a carbon tax as a fairer and more easily administered alternative to the so-called "cap and trade" system now being considered. While there will definitely be impacts on business, the impact of doing nothing and allowing global warming to continue will, in the long tem, be far greater. The Chamber of Commerce and its allies are once again demonstrating their unwillingness to look beyond the next quarter's profit-loss reports to consider the long-term future of California's economy.

Sincerely,

Stuart Flashman, J.D., Ph.D.

<small>Serving public interest and private clients since 1990.</small>	
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