



Still Finding Gold In El Dorado County

February 25, 2021

The Honorable Mike McGuire
California State Senate, State Capitol, Room 408
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SUPPORT - SB 219 (McGuire): Property taxation: delinquent penalties and costs: cancellation: public health orders. **As introduced 1/13/21 SUPPORT**

Dear Senator McGuire:

On behalf of the El Dorado County Joint Chambers Commission, we are pleased to write in strong support of your bill, SB 219 (McGuire). This bill seeks to codify the tax collector's ability to cancel penalty for taxpayers who have had pandemic related financial hardships during this shelter-in-place order. It's critical to provide consistent application of penalty waivers across the state and to provide taxpayers with appropriate relief.

Property taxes make up the majority of discretionary revenue available to local government agencies and are traditionally very predictable in nature. While numerous taxpayers have continued to make property tax payments timely and without incident, the onset of this pandemic found many other property owners struggling. This situation has been further exacerbated as the pandemic continues much longer than anyone had anticipated. Tax collectors currently do not have statutory authority to cancel tax penalties for late payments due solely to economic hardship.

El Dorado County, as well as our cities, schools and special districts rely on property tax payments to fund near-term obligations including vital services, programs, operations and payroll. Any sizable disruption to this cash flow could be catastrophic for the solvent functioning of the county and our local agencies. That is why the proposed relief in SB 219 is the ideal solution.

SB 219 represents the needed statutory improvement to ensure that our local governments can prospectively be best positioned and prepared to function in an uninterrupted fashion during a crisis, and yet be nimble enough to help individuals in their time of hardship.

We thank you for your authorship of this urgent legislation. SB 219 will assist those who need it most during a crisis and also maintain the predictability of critical revenue support for local government agencies. For these reasons our organization supports SB 219 and appreciates your leadership in pursuing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

On behalf of:

El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce

El Dorado Hills Chamber

Shingle Springs/Cameron Park Chamber

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurel Bren-Bumb".

Laurel Bren-Bumb A.C.E.
Chief Executive Office

EL DORADO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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