



July 14, 2010

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The Honorable Xavier Becerra  
Member of Ways and Means Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Wally Herger  
Member of Ways and Means Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Devin Nunes  
Member of Ways and Means Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Linda T. Sanchez  
Member of Ways and Means Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Fortney Pete Stark  
Member of Ways and Means Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Thompson  
Member of Ways and Means Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representatives Becerra, Herger, Nunes, Sanchez, Stark and Thompson:

We write to you on behalf of California's 58 counties to urge your support of H.R. 1956 introduced by Representatives Erik Paulsen (R-MN.) and Artur Davis (D-AL.) that would allow for the expansion of the federal tax intercept program to include unpaid fines owed for court-ordered debt.

Currently, California has \$4.8 billion in outstanding unpaid debt from delinquent fines, fees, assessments and forfeitures. The courts estimate that expanding the federal tax intercept program would result in the collection of \$20 million annually in revenues to the state of California and a reduction in the amount of outstanding debt. As you are well aware, California — like many other states — is grappling with historic budget deficits and looking to expand tools to recover revenues it is owed. H.R. 1956 would allow California to slowly chip away at its debt by successfully collecting on fines and fees and enforcing court orders.

Further, it is important to note that California courts and counties are presently working together to craft a package of reforms aimed at improving the collection of court-ordered debt. These reforms — which in their totality seek to provide collections programs with tools and authorities to maximize collection efforts — are well on their way towards approval. H.R. 1956 complements these efforts and would help advance California courts' and counties' joint commitment to enhancing revenue recovery and ensuring greater compliance with court orders statewide.

As you are aware, expanding the federal tax intercept program for this narrowly crafted purpose would merely require debtors to make good -on their debt and reduce the burden to the taxpayers who currently bear the costs for court and county systems and programs that otherwise would benefit from revenue successfully and lawfully collected from violators.

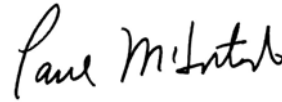
The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is proud to join the list of organizations — including the National Association of Counties, the Judicial Council of California, the Government Finance Officers Association and the American Probation and Parole Association — in endorsing H.R. 1956.

We respectfully urge you to sign-on as a co-sponsor of this legislation that is important to California and the state's ongoing efforts to collect unpaid court-ordered debt. If you should have any questions regarding our support, please feel free to contact the CSAC office at (916) 327-7500. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Tony Oliveira  
President  
California State Association of Counties



Paul McIntosh  
Executive Director  
California State Association of Counties

cc: Curtis L. Child, Director, AOC Office of Governmental Affairs  
Joe Krahn, Waterman & Associates