

United Californians for Tax Reform

February 2, 2007

Honorable John Chiang
State Controller,
Chair, Franchise Tax Board (FTB)
660 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2050
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Chairman Chiang:

On behalf of United Californians for Tax Reform (UCTR), I want to express my appreciation to the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) and its staff for developing and implementing two key improvements to Form 540 2EZ for the 2006 tax year. The new substantive provision is that capital gains from mutual funds can now be reported on the form. The new logistical feature is that the electronic version of the form, downloadable from the FTB Website, can be saved when partially completed, with the data retained on the taxpayer's computer—thus obviating the need to re-enter all data each time the taxpayer works on the form, which was required in prior-year versions.

UCTR worked for several years with the FTB and the Legislature to develop the initial Form 540 2EZ and then to add improvements to allow more and more California taxpayers to use this simple form. For their singular help in achieving these latest improvements to the form, UCTR would like to acknowledge the efforts of former and current Assembly Members Patricia Bates, Patricia Wiggins, and Chuck DeVore as well as Former Senators Charles Poochigian and Ross Johnson. UCTR especially thanks FTB staff members Cathy Cleek, Anne Miller, Chris Beach, and Cathy Lewis for the indispensable work they did to incorporate these new features. Not only were these individuals very capable, knowledgeable, and proficient in their work, but they were always courteous, professional, and a pleasure to work with.

The new features of Form 540 2EZ will benefit many California taxpayers. Developing and implementing those improvements is an excellent example of what can be achieved when the FTB, elected officials, and taxpayer advocates combine their ideas, resources, and energies.

I look forward to working with you and your staff in the future to continue to improve California's tax system.

Yours truly,

Roland A. Boucher, Chairman

cc: FTB Board Member Honorable Michael C. Genest
FTB Board Member Honorable Betty T. Yee