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ICYMI: *Manteca Bulletin*: Sacramento wants more taxes

Board of Equalization member George Runner argues that state doesn't need new taxes proposed by Sacramento politicians

(SACRAMENTO)—State Board of Equalization member and taxpayer advocate George Runner argues in today's *Manteca Bulletin* that the state already has enough money and new taxes are not necessary. Despite the fact that our state is "flush with cash," including reaping the benefits of the new hidden gas tax, legislators are proposing more than \$10 billion in new service taxes, as well as other taxes that will hurt hardworking Californians. Given our current fiscal situation, it's time to live within our means, not ask for more taxes.

***Manteca Bulletin*: Sacramento wants more taxes**

By George Runner
State Board of Equalization member

After years of debt, deficits and budget cuts, it may come as a surprise to learn that our state government is flush with cash. But you wouldn't know it by the talk of tax increases coming out of Sacramento.

First the facts:

- California is outspending other states: As the Sacramento Bee's Dan Walters recently reported, census data shows California state spending jumped 7.5% last fiscal year and is well above average when compared to other states.

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- California taxes are really, really high: Californians pay some of the highest income, sales and gas taxes in the nation. According to the Tax Foundation, many small businesses face top marginal tax rates of 51.9%-the highest in the nation.

But in California, facts like these never get between liberal politicians and their need to spend more of your tax dollars. Already this year they've implemented or introduced at least three schemes to get more of those dollars. And it's only February!

- On Jan. 1, the Governor and his Air Resources Board appointees quietly imposed a hidden gas tax (currently 10-15 cents but could go higher) to help fund California's bullet train and other so-called anti-global warming efforts. Falling gas prices helped mask the tax increase, but the gap between California's gas prices and the rest of the nation has grown.

- On Jan. 12, Senator Bob Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys) released a tax hike plan that would impose a massive \$10 billion dollar tax on services like bank transactions, haircuts, movie tickets and everything in between. When asked about the Senator's proposed tax hike, Governor Brown said, "If you tell people that their Pilates class will be taxed at 8.5 percent, they may not be as yoga-happy as they were before."

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Lawmakers are quick to propose new taxes and fees, but they're slow to eliminate old taxes-including those that are proven failures or no longer needed.

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Don't fall for the lie. Sacramento does not have a revenue problem, it has a spending addiction. There's plenty of money-just not enough to fund the endless spending appetite of tax-and-spend politicians.

To read the entire editorial, [please click here](#).