



April 8, 2009

The Honorable Leland Yee, PH.D.
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4074
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support of SB 691

Dear Senator Yee:

I am writing to express my support for the enactment of SB 691. Although I am not a resident of the State of California and do not own a business there, I am interested in expressing my opinion with respect to the pending legislation.

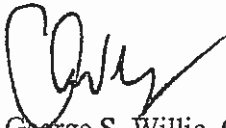
By way of a brief background, I have been a certified public accountant for more than thirty years and the principal of the oldest and one of the largest African-American owned accounting firms in the United States. Throughout my professional career, I have spent a considerable amount of time working on issues relating to standards in the accounting profession, including testifying before a number of regulatory and legislative bodies on issues directly relating to those standards. For many years, I have taught accounting at the college level and have served on the boards of many professional organizations and Schools of Businesses policy committees. Please note that I am particularly proud of the work I have done in advocating for and promoting causes seeking to increase the number of minorities in the accounting profession. It is against this background that I write in support of SB 691 and applaud your sponsorship of that legislation.

I am aware that there are those who argue that the imposition of the 150-hour rule would create a barrier to the entry of minorities into the accounting profession. While I am not intimately familiar with the findings of any study that produced that view, I am confident that the requirement for this rule is not designed to adversely affect any segment of the population. I firmly believe the 150-hour rule will help strengthen the profession. At the same time, if enacted, it will bring the State of California in line with a majority of other states in the credentialing process. Moreover, I firmly believe that the 150-hour rule will help to give the public, including minority users of our services, a greater level of confidence in the profession.

I cannot see anything other than a 'win-win' situation if the California legislature passes the measure. The consuming public wins because of the greater confidence. The accounting profession wins because the standards will have been strengthened and the required credentials will be more in line with the vast majority of other states as opposed to being the exception.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 202 393-8683.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Willie", written over a horizontal line.

George S. Willie, CPA
Managing Partner