

**TEXT OF LETTER FROM
ASSEMBLYMEMBER DAVE JONES
TO DGS DIRECTOR WIL BUSH
RE: BOE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING**

April 10, 2009

Will Bush
Director
Department of General Services
707 3 rd Street
West Sacramento, CA 95605

Dear Director Bush:

I am writing to urge the Department of General Services (DGS) to provide replacement office space for the Board of Equalization.

The Board of Equalization occupies 100% of the 24-story state owned office building at 450 N Street in Sacramento, California. The building, built in 1992, has been the headquarters of the state's tax collector since 1993.

Since 1993, the building has had several significant failings that have resulted in significant cost to the state in terms of repair costs and interference with the ability of the BOE to carry out its mission of collecting tax revenues for the state of California. I have been advised that the cost to repair the exterior windows that failed in 2006 was approximately \$15 million dollars. The cost to repair/clean after the numerous incidents where water pipes burst inside the building is \$14 million, not counting the latest incident on March 22, 2009.

A member of my staff toured the building right after the latest incident where 5000-8000 gallons of 180 degree water was released into the building. Two floors were being cleaned of water and mold. Employees on those floors were sent home while the clean up was occurring.

It was then that we learned that 6 floors of the 24 story building were vacant (that is as of April 2, 2009) and that the BOE had relocated BOE Board Members and their staff, part of the legal department, and the Tax Payer Records Unit to other buildings because conditions on those floors were not safe for employees and equipment. I understand that employees have returned to some of those floors. I also understand that 2 employees became sick after returning and that new testing has begun to look for other harmful elements, in addition to mold, in the building.

I have also been advised that the state has had to pay nine worker's compensation claims on injuries that were the result of failings of the elevator system. Two of the five

elevators serving the upper floors of the building have been taken out of operation, despite ongoing repairs.

I am concerned about the health and safety of the staff of the BOE and the public that visits that office.

For these reasons I am asking DGS to work with the Board of Equalization on a plan to relocate the entire BOE organization to a new facility.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact David Gonsalves in my office at 916-324-4676 should you have any questions. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

/S/

DAVE JONES
Assembly Member, 9th District