



Orange County Taxpayers Association

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To: The Honorable Cameron Smyth, Chairman, Assembly Committee on Local Government

From: Reed Royalty, President, Orange County Taxpayers Association

Date: June 15, 2011

**SB 469 (Vargas): Land Use: Development Project Review: Superstores
OCTax Position: OPPOSE**

For undefined political reasons, SB 469 would subject one type of proposed retail establishment to prejudicial economic and community impact analysis that goes far beyond the existing 315 pages of CEQA requirements.

That type of retail establishment is the “superstore,” a pejorative term which OCTax understands to mean “an efficient store that hires a lot of people into secure jobs at fair wages, provides benefits and career advancement opportunities, creates lots of economic activity, pays a lot of taxes, and offers goods and services that people want and can afford, often in underserved communities.”

SB 469 seems especially perverse at this time. California has 12.4 percent unemployment, an intractable state deficit, the highest taxes and most onerous regulations in the nation, and a very logical exodus of businesses that are being driven from the state by such economic ills.

California urgently needs more employment and economic opportunity, not less. We need fewer restrictions on business development, not more. We need more jobs, not fewer. Secure jobs at “superstores” empower workers to spend money at other kinds of stores, restaurants, car dealerships, theaters and many other (non-superstore) establishments.

cc: The Honorable Juan Vargas
Orange County Legislative Delegation