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AB 1430 (Garrick) – OPPOSE

July 17, 2007

To: California Senators
From: Carmen Balber, Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights (FTCR)

Vote NO on AB 1430 (Garrick), a bill that would take away local governments' ability to limit the influence of special interest money on politicians.

California cities and counties have pioneered some of the strongest campaign finance reforms in the country. Cities and counties limited campaign contributions for local races long before caps were enacted on gifts to statewide candidates.

AB 1430 would roll back those reforms, overruling local limits on campaign contributions made to political parties, unions or similar organizations to benefit political candidates. Special interest donors could skirt contribution limits entirely by using a party or other organization as a conduit for campaign funds intended to help, or hurt, a candidate, even if the candidate solicited the gift and will direct how it will be spent. Such a loophole would nullify local contribution limits.

The bill would even block city and county requirements for prompt disclosure of the source of campaign funds, meaning voters may not know who's behind a candidate until after an election, when it's too late to matter.

Political parties and those special interests who successfully trade money for influence in the current system are pushing AB 1430 to undermine campaign reforms that California voters have consistently supported.

We urge you to block this attack on local campaign finance protections with a NO vote when AB 1430 reaches the Senate floor.