



*Secretary of State*  
**DEBRA BOWEN**  
*State of California*

December 1, 2009

Dear California Chamber of Commerce:

Last July, I asked for your help in letting your member businesses know about a deceptive solicitation sent to many companies implying they had to go through a private, third-party vendor – and pay an exorbitant fee – in order to file official documents with my office.

Now, I am asking for your help again to alert businesses to a new misleading mailing – one that implies a company must pay \$495 to a private, third-party vendor in order to file a dissolution document with my office when they go out of business.

Perhaps even worse than the \$495 fee this company is charging is that if the third party does not file the correct documents with my office, the dissolving company – not the third party – may face fees and penalties.

Under the law, no business is required to go through a third party to file any document with my office. The cost to file termination documents with my office is \$0 if a company does it by mail and \$15, if done in person.

A Customer Alert on my website at [www.sos.ca.gov/business/be/alert-misleading-solicitations.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/business/be/alert-misleading-solicitations.htm) has more information about this deceptive ploy, as well as information on how businesses can file documents directly with my office and how they can contact the Attorney General if they have already been victimized.

If your members have questions about this or any other solicitation relating to filings with the Secretary of State, please have them call my office at (916) 653-6244.

Thank you for your help in sharing this information with your membership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debra Bowen".

Debra Bowen  
Secretary of State

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