



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 09 2011

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 676 without my signature.

This measure would establish a pilot program for the cultivation of industrial hemp in four counties in California.

Federal law clearly establishes that all cannabis plants, including industrial hemp, are marijuana, which is a federally regulated controlled substance. Failure to obtain a permit from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration prior to growing such plants will subject a California farmer to federal prosecution.

Although I am not signing this measure, I do support a change in federal law. Products made from hemp – clothes, food, and bath products – are legally sold in California every day. It is absurd that hemp is being imported into the state, but our farmers cannot grow it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edmund G. Brown Jr." with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Edmund G. Brown Jr.