



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**OCT 13 2019**

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1516 without my signature.

This bill makes numerous changes to reduce wildfire risk for individuals and communities aimed at improving fire safety.

Over the last ten years wildfires in California have increased in severity. In the last two years California experienced the most devastating fires in our history. The importance of reducing the number and impact of these fires and making our state resilient to their risk cannot be overstated.

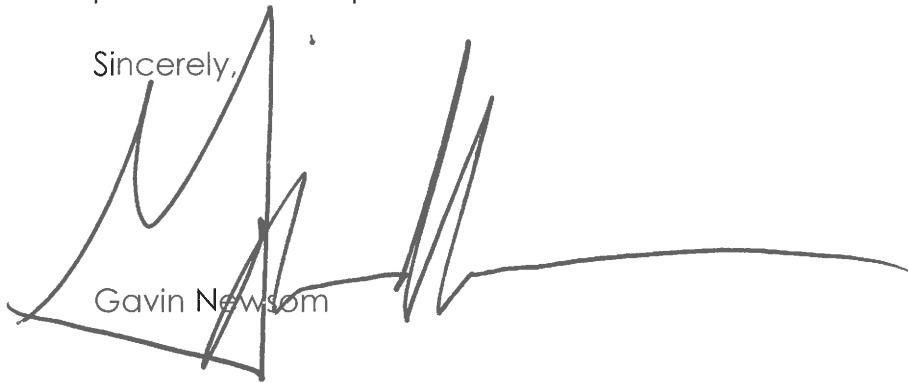
Home hardening, adequate defensible space, vegetation management and compliance with mitigation measures are all critical components to making our communities in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) resilient to the threat of wildfires. However, each community is different and the best practices to achieve resiliency need to be crafted to meet the individual needs of that community. This bill takes a broad swath approach that does not reflect those individual needs.

This year we have invested more than a billion dollars to significantly enhance fire prevention and fighting capabilities.

Additionally, I signed legislation to help California communities become stronger and more resilient by: reviewing regional capacity of very high fire hazard severity zones to improve forest health, fire resilience, and safety; conducting a pilot project to build best practices for overall community resiliency through state and local partnership, requiring development of a model defensible space program; Fire Safety Building Standards Compliance training; and tools to support implementation of building standards.

These efforts will guide community resiliency efforts as we continue to work to prevent catastrophic wildfires.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Newsom'. The signature is stylized with several sharp, vertical strokes and a long horizontal line extending to the right. It is positioned to the right of the word 'Sincerely,' and partially overlaps the printed name 'Gavin Newsom' below it.

Gavin Newsom