



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 12 2019

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 417 without my signature.

This bill would establish the Agriculture and Rural Prosperity Act by authorizing the secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to consult with other stakeholders to identify opportunities to further rural agricultural economies. This bill also requires CDFA to create a position within the department's executive office to assist the Secretary with the Act and establishes the Rural Economic Development Account to carry out the provisions of the Act.

I support the creation of new opportunities for CDFA to work with federal, state and local partners to identify new partnerships and innovative solutions to enhance rural economies through technology, education and workforce training. However, I believe establishing the new position and responsibilities envisioned by this bill is better done in the budget and in the context of the broader mission of the department.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom