



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 12 2019

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 558 without my signature.

This bill would establish a new Commission on California-Mexico Affairs to serve as a public stakeholder body on cultural, economic, and environmental issues related to the California-Mexico border and issues of mutual concern to California, the United Mexican States, the State of Baja California, and the State of Baja California Sur.

These are important goals that we have been working collaboratively to address, which is why I issued an Executive Order establishing the International Affairs and Trade Development Interagency Committee earlier this year. The Committee has focused on California's relationship with Mexico and already taken steps to reestablish a formal presence for California in Mexico. In addition to the work of the Committee, the California-Mexico Border Relations Council, established in 2006, also serves as the central organizing body that coordinates cross-border programs, initiatives, projects and partnerships for the State.

While I respect the intent of the bill, its provisions are duplicative of the existing Council, recent efforts undertaken by Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis as Chair of the International Affairs and Trade Development Interagency Committee, and efforts already underway to reestablish the Commission of the Californias (ComCal). I look forward to continued collaboration with the Legislature and key stakeholders under this framework to work at the border and beyond with California's most important international partner.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom