



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 29 2020

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 995 without my signature.

This bill would create the Board of Environmental Safety within the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to provide policy direction to and oversight of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

I applaud the author's diligence in seeking to increase transparency and accountability in DTSC. However, the bill as written falls short of the goals we have previously set for needed changes to better protect public health and safety. Without necessary funding, DTSC will be unable to deliver on the promise of this legislation – cleaning up too many abandoned sites adversely impacting the health of low-income communities across our state and better protecting Californians from dangerous chemicals going forward.

Understanding that governance and fiscal changes are both necessary and inextricably tied to achieving the mandates DTSC is currently responsible for, my 2020 Budget proposed a comprehensive approach to achieve a more transparent decision-making process through the creation of a board and restructured fees to adequately fund this Department.

AB 995 seeks to impose changes to governance but lacks necessary fiscal reform.

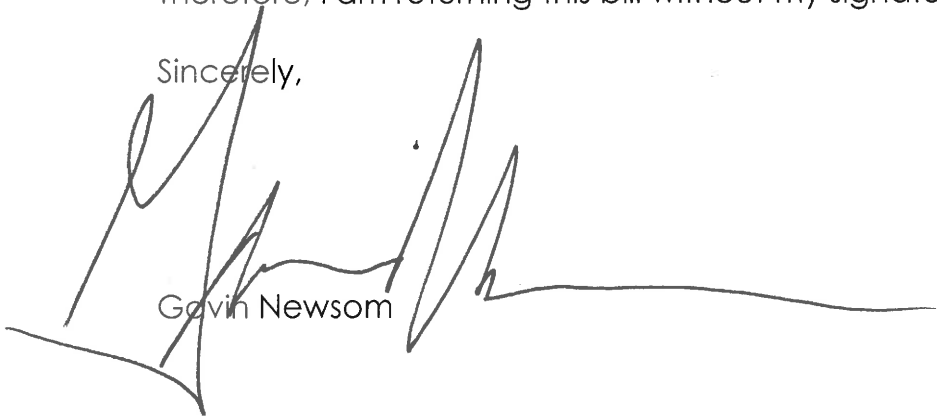
To accomplish comprehensive change and make progress on the more than 150,000 brownfield sites where no responsible party exists, we will need comprehensive fiscal reform to support adequate revenues. Over the last year, we were able to reach agreement with the Legislature on many of the key elements of DTSC reform. I am confident that in the upcoming legislative session we will achieve the much needed fiscal and governance reforms to better protect communities across our state.



Therefore, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Govin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Govin Newsom", written over the printed name. The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible due to its cursive nature.