To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2382 without my signature.

AB 2382 would establish new light reduction requirements for outdoor lighting fixtures installed or replaced on structures or lands that are owned, leased, or managed by a state agency. While I appreciate the stated goals of this bill to conserve energy and decrease ambient light in the night sky, the provisions create an overly broad mandate that raises concerns for health and safety, security, and crime prevention. Further, the California Green Building Standards Code includes light pollution reduction standards for nonresidential buildings. These standards are developed during a public, deliberative process.

Furthermore, the costs associated with this bill are unfunded and potentially significant. There are 24,000 state-owned buildings, in addition to the state’s leased and managed properties. Requiring all outdoor lighting at these locations to be shielded, include shutoff devices, or have a motion sensor may cost millions of dollars not accounted for in the budget.

With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.
The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over $20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than $10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for as part of the annual budget process.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Gavin Newsom