



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 25 2022

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2514 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to incorporate an evaluation of the current state of transportation in underserved rural communities, as well as a transportation needs assessment for those communities, into the State Highway System Management Plan.

While I appreciate the author's goal to assess the needs of underserved rural communities, this work is already underway, as envisioned in the Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan and the California State Transportation Agency's Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure.

My Administration will continue collaborating with transportation stakeholders to develop an equity index for use in project evaluation and prioritization processes. This includes developing metrics that are specific to the rural context to help shape transportation investments to serve the unique needs of disadvantaged rural communities. These efforts will include engagement with representatives of rural communities to advance our shared goal of enhancing equity and livability for all Californians.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

