



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 07 2023

To Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning the following bills without my signature:

Assembly Bill 371
Senate Bill 18

SB 18 would create the Tribal Housing Grant Program Trust Fund to provide grant funds to tribal entities, and AB 371 would change the current waiver process utilized to assist tribal entities in applying for various housing financing programs administered by the Department.

I want to thank the authors and their supporters for their commitment to providing more safe and affordable housing for California's tribal residents. These legislative efforts are well-intentioned, and I share the desire to further remove barriers and increase tribal access to housing and homelessness programs.

I signed legislation in 2019 to make tribes eligible for most State housing programs, and I remain committed to doing more. My Administration has provided tribal set asides in a variety of new programs we created, including: \$30 million in the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2023; \$29 million through the first round of the Multifamily Super Notice of Funding Availability, which combines funding for four affordable housing funding programs; \$20 million recently awarded through the Homeless, Housing Assistance and Prevention program (HHAP); and a forthcoming Homekey Tribal Entity Notice of Funding Availability of approximately \$75 million, to name a few.



But system overhauls such as those included in these two bills need to be made through the budget process where a dedicated grant program to address tribal housing needs – using either new general fund and/or reappropriation of existing tribal set-asides – can be established, along with appropriate program rules to streamline application processes, with more flexible uses to better meet the unique housing needs of tribal governments.

I am committed to addressing these important issues in next year's budget and look forward to working with the Legislature and our tribal partners to help deliver these critical dollars to tribal communities where – and how – they are needed.

But for the reasons stated above, I cannot sign these bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible due to the cursive nature of the handwriting.

Gavin Newsom