



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 13 2025

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 62 without my signature.

This bill would require the Civil Rights Department (CRD) to establish a process through which a victim of racially motivated eminent domain, or their descendants, could obtain restitution for the value of the property wrongfully taken from them.

I thank the author for seeking to right these historic injustices. My administration shares the commitment to dismantle systemic racism, including by addressing the wealth gap. However, CRD lacks the crucial expertise and immense resources required to successfully implement this bill. CRD, a prosecutorial agency, would need to establish an entirely new adjudicatory structure, inclusive of administrative law judges, in order to adjudicate property disputes between governmental entities and individuals. These determinations would be complex, involve multiple parties, competing interests, and the gathering of historical evidence that would be difficult to obtain or verify. Given the substantial resources this would require, this bill would limit CRD's ability to fulfill its core mission of maintaining and strengthening civil rights protections for Californians – a vital mission that grows more necessary every day.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined



when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Gavin Newsom", written over a printed name. The signature is stylized with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gavin Newsom