



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 27 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly and Senate:

I am signing Assembly Bill 817 and Senate Bill 716.

These bills respond to the devastating 2026 cold storage facility fire in Boyle Heights and its prolonged effects on the surrounding community. The residents of Boyle Heights endured weeks of smoke, odors, pests, and other serious health and safety impacts. These measures provide additional tools to support affected residents, promote accountability, deter conduct that threatens public health and safety, and strengthen preparedness so that communities are better protected going forward.

However, these measures will expand beyond Los Angeles County and apply more broadly throughout the state beginning July 1, 2028. Additional attention is needed to ensure these policies are appropriately tailored for broader implementation, account for differences among facilities, and avoid unintended or disproportionate consequences. I implore the Legislature and stakeholders to continue to refine these requirements in follow-up legislation next year.

I am also mindful that Assembly Bill 817 creates an incident-specific tax exclusion outside the annual budget process. California has provided similar relief for settlement claims arising from catastrophic wildfires and other serious environmental and public health incidents. As I have stated previously, proposals affecting the General Fund should generally be considered through the budget process. However, this principle must be balanced against the need

for a timely response. Given the extraordinary circumstances surrounding this disaster I am approving this targeted relief.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over the printed name "Gavin Newsom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.