



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 30 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

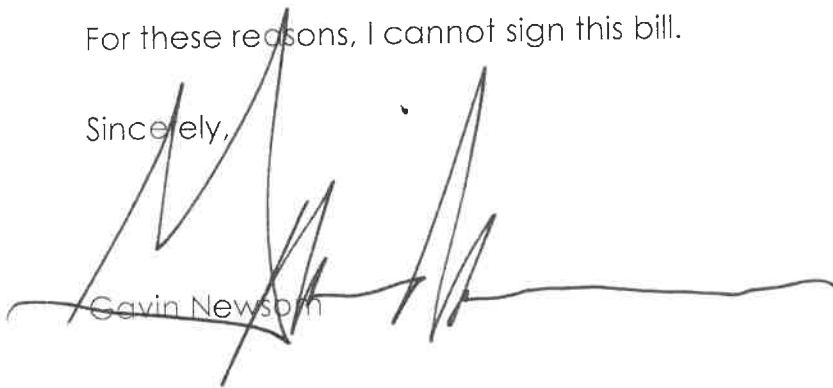
I am returning Assembly Bill 1881 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit a government agency from burdening a California Native American tribe's exercise of religious beliefs or spiritual practices on state lands, even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability, unless the agency shows that doing so is the least restrictive means of furthering a compelling governmental interest. This bill would also require a government agency to obtain written consent from an affected tribe before undertaking any physical change to a state land if the action may pose a risk to a sacred site.

I am sympathetic to the goals of this measure. However, this legislation's proposed framework could have far-reaching impacts on the basic operations of state government and the management of state property, and this uncertainty calls for further discussion and review. I encourage the author to continue his work to refine these concepts, and I call on state agencies to be part of that conversation.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom