



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 18 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2494 without my signature.

This bill would significantly revise the state's management policies for the Demonstration State Forests and establish new goals, forestry techniques, research efforts, and other activities allowable on the demonstration forests.

For 80 years, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Demonstration State Forests have served as living laboratories for research, recreation, and the demonstration of sustainable forest management.

My administration, in partnership with the Legislature, has made historic investments to accelerate the pace and scale of science-based forest management to improve forest health, enhance wildfire resilience, and mitigate climate change. Though small in size, Demonstration State Forests produce cutting-edge strategies that inform forest management on public and private lands across California — work that is critical to achieving our goals.

By narrowing the management of these forests to a limited set of public benefits, this bill risks the State's ability to fully demonstrate the best science-based practices. At a time when California is racing to keep pace with a rapidly

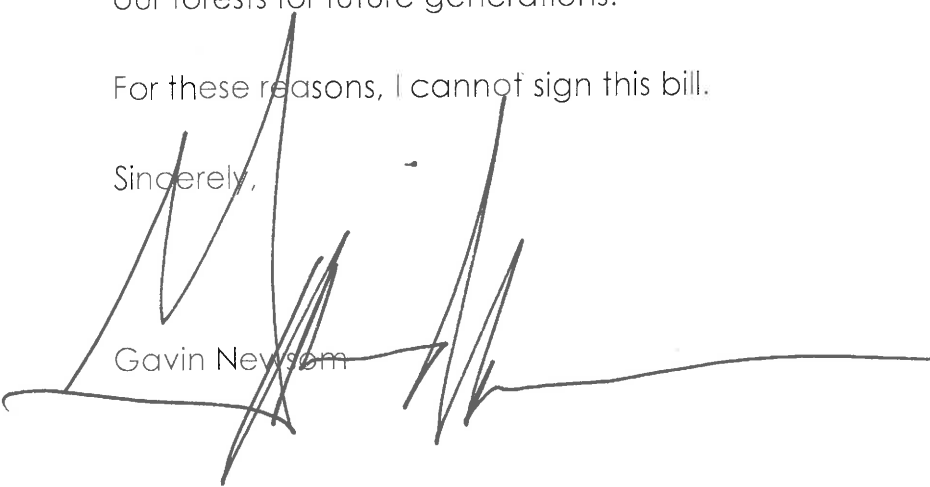


changing climate, we cannot afford to lose the flexibility needed to safeguard our forests for future generations.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several sharp, sweeping strokes, is written over the printed name "Gavin Newsom". The signature extends across the width of the name and slightly beyond.