



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 20 2026

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 306 without my signature.

This bill would expand the California Building Standards Commission's authority to hear appeals of certain local building code decisions, including requests to use alternative materials or construction methods, and to interpret provisions it has adopted.

My administration worked extensively with the Legislature to make California's building standards more predictable and efficient. Last year's state budget incorporated provisions from an earlier iteration of this measure that generally paused new residential building standards until mid-2031, providing greater regulatory certainty and helping contain construction costs.

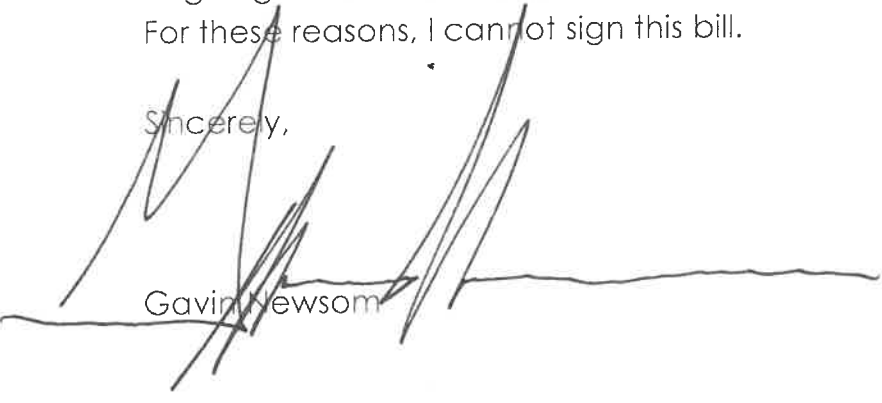
I thank the author for their partnership and continued commitment to this important issue. However, this bill does not clearly explain how the Commission's new appeals pathway would interact with the existing processes administered by the California Energy Commission, the State Historical Building Safety Board, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

These agencies already administer specialized energy, fire, and life-safety standards, resolve disputes arising from local decisions, and evaluate alternative methods of compliance. Allowing the same issues to be presented to the Building Standards Commission without specifying which agency has final authority could result in duplicative proceedings, inconsistent interpretations, and project delays. These risks are particularly concerning for housing projects, where uncertainty over applicable building standards can delay approvals,



disrupt financing, increase construction costs, and ultimately prevent urgently needed homes from being built. The new process would also impose significant ongoing costs without dedicated funding.
For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom