



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 11 2013

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 199 without my signature.

This bill would require the state to implement a preference for agricultural products grown in California and offered by a California company. This preference would be difficult to comply with and quite onerous. Every purchase, even a single bag of apples, would be affected.

I strongly support California's agricultural industry and encourage all state-run institutions to support local farmers and businesses. In fact, state growers and processors have no trouble competing for – and winning – the state's business. Today, approximately half of all food the Department of General Services purchases for state institutions comes from California, without a preference or a mandate.

Sincerely,

  
Edmund G. Brown Jr.