



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 12 2013

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

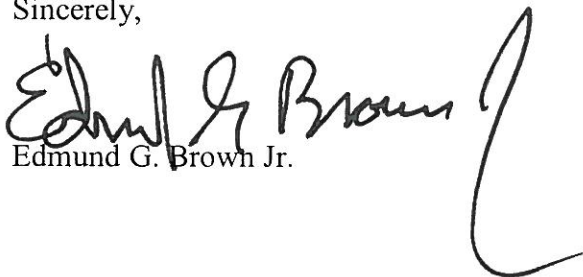
I am returning Assembly Bill 857 without my signature.

The initiative process is far from perfect and monied interests have historically manipulated it at will. Nevertheless, fixing the system is not easy.

Requiring a specific threshold of signatures to be gathered by volunteers will not stop abuses by narrow special interests – particularly if “volunteer” is defined with the broad exemptions as in this bill.

Efforts to make the system fairer and more reflective of sound government should be considered. But this measure falls short of returning to the citizen-driven system originally envisioned in 1911.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edmund G. Brown Jr.", with a large, sweeping flourish extending downwards and to the right.

Edmund G. Brown Jr.