



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 11 2015

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning SB 539 without my signature.


This bill would prohibit the naming of any school, park, building or other public property after certain persons associated with the Confederate States of America.

Recently we saw a national movement to remove the confederate flag from State Capitols in the South – a long overdue action. This bill, however, strikes me as different and an issue quintessentially for local decision makers.

As far as we know, only two schools, and a street in Stockton would be affected by this law. Existing local processes provide for the naming or re-naming of public facilities, and in several cases local residents have voiced their opposition and have succeeded in re-naming schools and other public property.

Local governments are laboratories of democracy which, under most circumstances, are quite capable of deciding for themselves which of their buildings and parks should be named, and after whom.

Sincerely,

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

Edmund G. Brown Jr.