

**Governor's Veto Message**

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 296 without my signature.

This bill establishes the Climate Innovation Grant Program, to be administered by the Strategic Growth Council, for the development and research of new innovations and technologies that either reduce emissions of greenhouse gases or address the impacts of climate change. It also establishes a Climate Innovation Voluntary Tax Contribution Account and authorizes an individual to contribute as part of their state tax return.

I am supportive of the important objective of this legislation to spur technological innovation to mitigate climate change. However, this bill creates a redundant, and potentially conflicting, grant program that overlaps with several existing programs at multiple agencies including the Strategic Growth Council. At this juncture, we should maximize resources with our existing programs rather than create redundancies.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom