



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 07 2021

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 244 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to develop a model protocol to prevent fires caused by lithium-ion batteries in the solid waste stream and require the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to develop guidance for local governments to increase public awareness about the proper disposal of those batteries. This bill would also require a solid waste enterprise to adopt a prevention protocol for fires caused by the disposal of lithium-ion batteries and train relevant employees on the protocol.

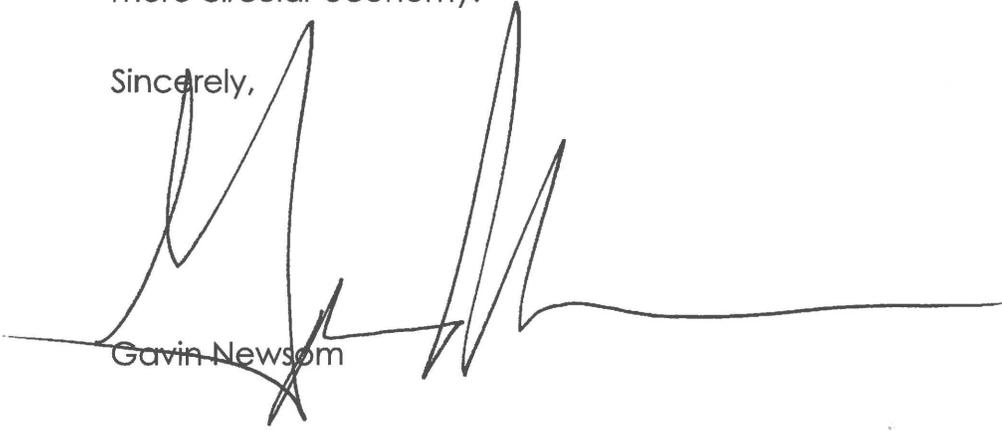
I share the concern about the risks lithium-ion batteries pose in the solid waste stream. However, this bill is duplicative of efforts already taken by local governments and stakeholder groups and does not propose a meaningful solution to the problem.

Furthermore, at a time when CAL FIRE is tackling historic wildfires, this proposal would divert funds away from mission-critical programs to implement this bill.



I welcome discussions with the author and Legislature about a meaningful, comprehensive approach to addressing the safety risks posed by lithium-ion batteries in the solid waste system that would advance California toward a more circular economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with several loops and a long horizontal tail.

Gavin Newsom