OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 0 8 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1614 without my signature.

This bill would require the California Energy Commission (CEC), in consultation with the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, to conduct a study on the statewide transition of fuel stations from gasoline to alternative fuels.

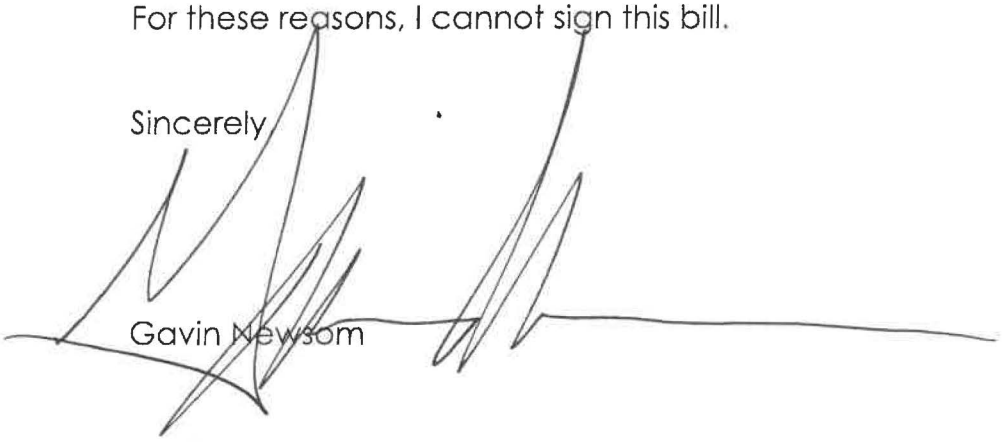
This bill will result in additional costs to the General Fund and the CEC's primary operating fund, which is currently facing an ongoing structural deficit. This bill exacerbates the CEC's operating funds structural imbalance. Additionally, many provisions of this bill are duplicative of existing law, which requires the CEC, in consultation with various state entities, to prepare a transportation fuels transition plan by December 31, 2024.

In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than $30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly $19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which $11 billion would be ongoing.

With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom