



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly

I am returning Assembly Bill 552 without my signature.

This bill directs the California Department of Food and Agriculture, upon appropriation, to establish the Regional Farmer Equipment and Cooperative Resources Assistance Pilot Program and provide resource-limited farmers and ranchers with financial and technical assistance to share equipment.

While I support the author's goal to assist small-scale farmers and ranchers, this bill would create a new, unfunded grant program that should be considered as a part of the annual budget process.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a large, sweeping flourish that extends to the right.