



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 57 without my signature.

This bill would establish the California Pocket Forest Initiative in the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and require CAL FIRE to implement the initiative, as prescribed, with applicable reporting requirements.

This bill results in General Fund impacts not included in the 2023 Budget Act and likely significant ongoing General Fund cost pressure to support grants to complete projects funded through the initiative.

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 this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom