OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 748 without my signature.

This bill would establish the California Abandoned and Derelict Commercial Vessel Program and a multi-agency task force to identify, prioritize, and fund the removal of abandoned and derelict commercial vessels across the state.

While I support the author's attempt to create a statewide approach to address abandoned and derelict commercial vessels in California that pose significant public health, safety, and environmental risks, this program was not accounted for in the 2023 Budget Act. Implementation across the relevant agencies is expected to cost about $7.5 million in year 1 with ongoing General Fund impacts.

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