



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 20 2024

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2313 without my signature.

This bill requires the Department of Food and Agriculture, upon appropriation and contingent on passage of Proposition 4, a measure on the November 2024 ballot, to establish the Regional Farmer Equipment and Cooperative Resources Assistance Pilot Program to provide financial and technical assistance for farm equipment sharing and cooperative benefits for socially disadvantaged and limited-resource farmers and ranchers.

I support the author's goal of assisting small-scale farmers and ranchers, but this bill creates a new grant program that lacks the necessary continuous funding to support it. I vetoed a similar bill last year due to budget concerns, and while I understand that this bill is contingent on a potential initial funding source, a new grant program that will require ongoing funding should be considered in the annual budget process.

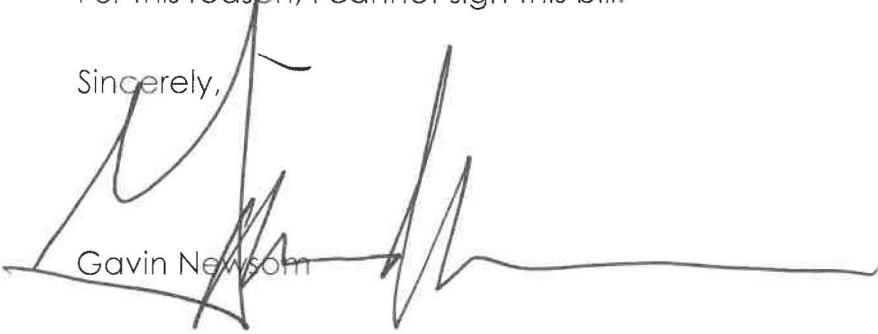
In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that avoids deep program cuts to vital services and protected investments in education, health care, climate, public safety, housing, and social service programs that millions of Californians rely on. It is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.



For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', written over the printed name. The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible due to overlapping lines.