



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 25 2024

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2734 without my signature.

This bill would update the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Healthy Soils Program (HSP) by authorizing the Scientific Advisory Panel to consult with any relevant advisory bodies. The bill would also allow Healthy Soils grant recipients to request an advance on their grant for incentive payments and require CDFA to provide grants of up to five years for on-farm demonstration projects.

While I support the author's goal to update the HSP to increase program accessibility for farmers, the provisions requiring CDFA to provide grants of up to five years would result in millions of dollars of General Fund cost pressures and 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and overlaps the line.

Gavin Newsom