

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment - EconAlliance

A-37



From: Mona Miyasato
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2024 9:59 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: FW: \$26/hour initiative
Attachments: EconAlliance Ltr of Concern re \$26hr ag worker proposal.pdf

From: v.conner strategicvitalityllc.com <v.conner@strategicvitalityllc.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2024 7:50 AM
To: Mona Miyasato <mmyasato@countyofsb.org>; Steve Lavagnino <slavagnino@countyofsb.org>; Bob Nelson <bnelson@countyofsb.org>; Joan Hartmann <jHartmann@countyofsb.org>; Laura Capps <lcapps@countyofsb.org>; Das Williams <DWilliams@countyofsb.org>
Cc: Nancy Anderson <nanderson@countyofsb.org>; Wade Horton <whorton@countyofsb.org>; Cory Bantilan <cbantilan@countyofsb.org>; Aaron Hanke <ahanke@countyofsb.org>; Gina Fischer <gFischer@countyofsb.org>; Chris Henson <chenson@countyofsb.org>; Darcel Elliott <delliott@countyofsb.org>; Sam Cohen <scohen@chumash.gov>; Adam, Phil <Philip@InnovativeProduce.com>
Subject: \$26/hour initiative

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Good morning, all –
As you know, EconAlliance is a longtime supporter of our local ag community. We greatly value the men and women who work in this sector. We do, however, have some concerns with the \$26/hour initiative before you. Our concerns are outlined in the letter attached. Thank you for your careful consideration of this issue.

Vicki



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CEO, Innovative Produce

Phil Tabyanan, VP Fund
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General Manager, Plus Property
Mng't.

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Spaceport Integration Manager
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Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital

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Southern California Verizon

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Public Affairs Manager
Southern California Gas Company

Ben Oakley
Manager, CA Coastal Region
Western States Petroleum
Association

Martin Pehl, A.A.E.
General Manager
Santa Maria Public Airport District

Marvin Rodriguez
Vice President, Operations
True Precision Machining

Yolanda Vasquez
AVP/Branch Manager
Mechanics Bank

Todd Ventura
President, PRP Companies
1st VP, Santa Maria Fairpark Board

Kevin Walthers
Superintendent/President
Allan Hancock College



*Building Awareness, Advocacy, Support and Appreciation for
Northern Santa Barbara County Industries and Communities*

September 3, 2024

To (via email):

Mona Miyasato, County CEO

caoemail@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

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Laura Capps, 2nd District

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Joan Hartmann, 3rd District

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Bob Nelson, 4th District

Bob.nelson@countyofsb.org

Steve Lavagnino, 5th District

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Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors and CEO Miyasato:

As you know, EconAlliance is a cross-industry nonprofit working to build support and appreciation for Northern Santa Barbara County industries and communities.

There is an initiative before you requesting an increase in the minimum wage to \$26/hour for county agriculture workers, which is a 62% increase over the state minimum wage of \$16/hour. EconAlliance is very concerned about the potential impacts of this increase should it be adopted:

---- California's strawberry sector and many other crop sectors are already having serious sustainability challenges (county strawberry growers are projecting major losses this year), this increase would immediately eliminate many ag/wine grape businesses/jobs in our county who are already facing heavy domestic and international competitive pressure.

---- We are concerned about pressure to duplicate this rate in other sectors (manufacturing, retail, hospitality) should this initiative be adopted, severely impacting current efforts to rebound from the pandemic and build our community

---- Adoption of this initiative would put major upward pressure on all non-minimum-wage ag jobs, creating a new minimum salary of over \$100,000 and eliminating the competitiveness of not just ag producers but also ag service companies.

We believe your thorough research will reveal many probable negative economic impacts of the adoption of a \$26/hr ag minimum wage, including both major losses of jobs and county income which would negatively impact the very community this proposal seeks to benefit. Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Adam", written over a white background.

Phil Adam, Vice President, EconAlliance Board
CEO, Innovative Produce