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Katherine Douglas *Public Comment - SB County Taxpayer Advocacy Center*

From: mikestoker@aol.com
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2024 3:30 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Item A-37

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"The SBCTAC...Fighting for the Taxpayer and Helping our Business Members Succeed!"

Mr. Chairman and Honorable Board Members,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Taxpayer Advocacy Center and our over 250 business members, we would like to strongly encourage your board to take two actions in regard to proceeding with the Ad Hoc Committee (AHC) to study the merits of implementing a county-wide ordinance to require all farmworkers be paid at \$26 an hour minimum wage.

First, given the significance of this proposal, we request that the AHC be subject to the Brown Act and all meetings be publicly noticed to allow all interested parties to participate. Given this county's history of taking pride in its commitment to 'transparency' we can't imagine that the board would consider anything for the AHC other than a public process.

Second, we would ask that you schedule the first public meeting for late October or early November to take into consideration the grape growers' October Harvest. The wine industry makes up a substantial portion of this county's overall economy. Their harvest season is September and October. Their input is

essential and to allow that to take place you Board should respect their harvest season and commit to scheduling the first public meetings of the AHC in late October or early November so that they can participate.

I want to thank your board in advance for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,
Mike Stoker
President & CEO, SBCTAC