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Katherine Douglas *General Public Comment*

From: Gina Rodarte Quiroz <rodartegina@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 11:44 PM
To: Joan Hartmann
Cc: sbcob
Subject: Joan Where's the justice? \$2 Billion Industry on poverty wages
Attachments: Letter to BOS Joan Hartman 9.2.2025.docx

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Please see our attached letter regarding the living wages for the workers that brought Santa Barbara County \$2 Billion for agriculture.

Respectfully,

Gina Rodarte Quiroz

Outreach Coordinator

Committee for Social Justice

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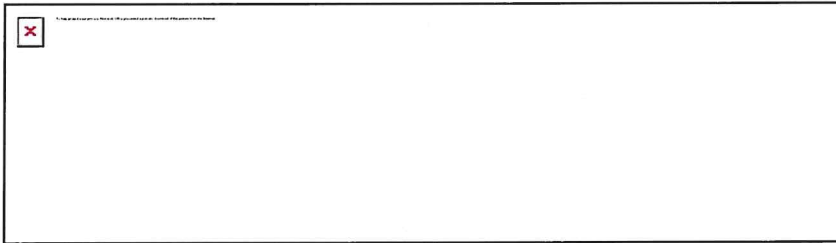


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Csjsb.org



"I hold the power to create my destiny; it begins and ends with me."

Other Affiliations:

Board of Directors Families ACT

Santa Barbara Tenants Union

Housing Justice Working Group CLUE

National Coalition For The Homeless

National Alliance to end Homelessness

National Low Income Housing Coalition

United Nations Working Group to end Homelessness



COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Mission Statement

Empowering low income and un-house
neighbors of Santa Barbara County
through advocacy, activism, education
and legal actions to end the
criminalization of poverty

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Date: September 2, 2025

Dear Supervisor Hartmann,

This Labor Day weekend, while many enjoyed wine tours and the beauty of our valley, farm workers bent their backs in the fields to make that celebration possible. They deserve more than our gratitude. They deserve a living wage—now.

Santa Barbara County agriculture brought in \$2 billion in 2024, with \$70 million from wine grapes. Yet farm workers see only 20 to 30 pennies to harvest the grapes that fill every costly bottle tourists sip in our world-famous wine country. The wealth of this county rests on their labor, but they are locked out of its rewards.

Worse, these same workers are stalked by raids and intimidation, stripped from their families while still enduring poverty wages. At the last Board meeting, you heard the call for justice from workers, allies, and loved ones. To ignore them again would not just be a failure of leadership, it would be complicity in exploitation.

Farmworkers risk everything so this community can thrive. You have the power to honor their courage with action. Supporting a living wage is not generosity; it is justice. Anything less is a betrayal.

We are watching. We are organizing. And we will not stop pushing. Farmworkers show bravery every day—now the question is whether you will match it.

Raise farmworker wages now!

Respectfully,

Gina Quiroz

Outreach Coordinator

Committee For Social Justice

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Santa Barbara, CA

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