



Katherine Douglas

General Public Comment

From: Rachel Grinstein <rgrinstein1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 2:00 AM
To: Joan Hartmann
Cc: sbcob
Subject: Joan Be Just: Pass a Living Wage for Farmworkers!

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Dear Supervisor Hartmann,

While many spent this Labor Day weekend savoring the fruits of our land, touring our beautiful wine country, and sipping on fine wines in the Santa Ynez Valley, I am sending this email because I cannot forget the hands that make this possible every year. I am expressing my deep concern regarding the urgent need for a living wage for the hardworking farmworkers in our community.

In 2024, Santa Barbara County agriculture production value reached \$2 billion, \$70 million of that deriving from wine grapes. It is disheartening to realize that while we all get to enjoy the fruits of their labor, the very farmworkers who contribute to such a successful industry are only paid 20-30 cents to harvest grapes by hand for each bottle of expensive wine sipped by tourists and ourselves in our scenic and world-renowned wine country. All we ask today is for you to allow farmworkers to enjoy some of the benefits their hard labor generates.

As you are well aware, farmworkers have been violently targeted in Santa Barbara County with workplace raids violently stripping people from their families. At the most recent Santa Barbara County Board meeting, you heard advocates, allies, and loved ones of undocumented workers call for a living wage for farmworkers. It is the least you can do in your position.

Do not let their voices be ignored a second time, especially in this dire time. It would be unconscionable to let their cries for justice go unanswered, particularly when we continue to live our lives without risk while they continue to risk themselves and their families for the very things we enjoy.

You have the opportunity to take a bold, decisive action that will change lives and elevate those who have long been overlooked. Anything less than supporting a living wage for farmworkers would be a betrayal to farmworkers and your constituents.

We're watching and we're pushing because now more than ever, we need brave leaders. Farmworkers show that bravery every day; now we ask, will you?

Raise farmworker wages now!

Thank you,
Rachel Grinstein