



**June 13, 2017**

Mr. Robert Curry  
California Cartage Company  
2931 Redondo Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90806

Dear Mr. Curry,

The leadership of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE) is committed to building a just and sacred society. CLUE brings together clergy and lay leaders of all faiths to join workers and other economically-disadvantaged communities in their struggles for justice in the workplace. On Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, during the holy season of Lent for Christians, Christian clergy and community members led a Stations of the Cross activity at the ports to commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus and acknowledge the modern-day wounds and injustices that workers at the ports experience daily.

We delivered a letter to California Cartage to share our concerns regarding your company's treatment of its workers. This letter was received by Lisa Lyons, the Executive Vice President of CORE Employee Management. She was extremely disrespectful to clergy and community leaders, refusing to dialogue with them, while also refusing to shake the hand of one of our Bishops. We will not tolerate the mistreatment of our community and workers and we demand that you listen to your workers' concerns.

It has come to our attention that California Cartage has potentially been consistently violating labor laws, including violating the Living Wage Ordinance at the Ports of Los Angeles by underpaying workers by as much as \$2 to \$3 per hour since at least 1999. We have heard stories of workers getting injured because of health and safety violations, encountering inhumane workloads while earning poverty wages and being denied overtime pay. We are also concerned with the illegal misclassification of port truck drivers as independent contractors, as this makes them vulnerable to wage theft, while also denying them of benefits such as overtime pay, worker compensation, and health care. It is an injustice that workers return home with little to negative pay checks while your companies continue to thrive.

As people rooted in faith, we find this intolerable and we demand respect for these hard-working individuals who depend upon their wages to feed, clothe and provide shelter for their families. A job should ensure that workers make enough to sustain their families. But instead, your companies ensure that those who are vulnerable and poor will stay vulnerable and poor. We demand that you acknowledge the hard labor and sacrifice of your workers.

Our community will work diligently to educate and activate our congregations, to amplify and respond to the voices of these workers, and to speak out against the unjust labor practices happening at Cal-Cartage. We are ready to accompany these workers and we will embody faith resistance to protect anyone targeted by this kind of injustice, to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people. **We will pray. We will march. We will boycott, if necessary.**

Out of respect for your workers, we ask that you do the moral and just thing by allowing your workers to receive the respect and dignity they so deserve, including the right to organize and receive a fair process in their negotiations with your company.

Respectfully,

Rabbi Jonathan Klein  
Executive Director, CLUE

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