



On behalf of Homeboy Industries, I am writing in strong support of Higher Wages for Residential Construction Workers. Our region faces a dual crisis: a severe housing shortage and a shrinking pool of construction workers. To meet our housing goals, Los Angeles needs tens of thousands of additional workers. Yet low wages, immigration raids, misclassification, and wage theft continue to drive workers out of this vital industry.

Homeboy Industries mission is to provide Hope, training, and support for formally gang involved and previously incarcerated individuals allowing them to redirect their lives and become contributing members of the community.

The current state of the residential construction industry—where large firms often subcontract nearly every aspect of a project—has created a system that rewards exploitation and cuts corners at the expense of workers and quality. This unstable model jeopardizes both our workforce and our housing future. We cannot afford to continue a cycle where workers are imported temporarily, with their wages leaving our community. What Los Angeles needs is a strong, stable, and local workforce invested in our neighborhoods.

The consequences of inaction are already evident: the median construction worker in Los Angeles earns just \$35,400 per year (adjusted for cost of living)—one of the lowest rates in the country. This is unacceptable for the people who are literally building the foundations of our community.

That is why Homeboy Industries proudly supports the Western States Carpenters' efforts. We strongly believe the City of Los Angeles must prioritize policies that establish fair wages and health benefits for residential construction workers on qualifying projects.

Doing so will not only stabilize our workforce but also strengthen our local economy, uplift families, and build a more sustainable housing future.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jose Arellano".

Jose Arellano
Vice President
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