

My name is Jaqueline Du.

I am submitting a favorable testimony for SB 0085.

I have been a worker-owner at Common Ground Cafe for 5 months, but I had worked there for 3 years before the owner laid off all staff and shuttered the business. Becoming a worker co-op gave us the tools to continue to serve a community we were an important part of for 25 years.

As a co-op we have been able to support each other through situations that are already difficult but are only made more so in traditional food service workplaces. We've been able to be there for each other through car accidents, a roof caving in, and grieving the losses of multiple family members.

Worker cooperatives are important to me. Mine is as close as family. Maryland should make it easier for more people like me to form worker co-ops and let us manage our businesses.