



BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL

RYAN DORSEY, 3rd District

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February 7, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr., Chair
The Honorable Jeff Waldstricher, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland

**RE: Requesting Favorable Report - SB85 - Maryland Limited
Cooperative Association Act**

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstricher, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am writing to urge you to issue a favorable report for **SB85 - Maryland Limited Cooperative Association Act**, which would create a corporate entity for limited worker cooperative associations that is designed to address the unique challenges that these enterprises face.

Presently, Maryland lacks a dedicated worker cooperative statute, resulting in significant impediments in the formation, governance, and financing of these enterprises. The existing corporate structures fail to adequately accommodate the cooperative business model. SB85 seeks to correct this by introducing provisions modeled after successful frameworks implemented in 30 other states.

Worker cooperatives play a crucial role in fostering economic resilience and inclusivity. Empowering worker owned cooperatives can lead to higher wages and benefits, enhanced job security, increased worker control, and greater community engagement. It is imperative that we acknowledge the important role these cooperatives will play in the future business landscape.

Your favorable report for SB85 is essential for promoting a more equitable business landscape. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Councilman Ryan Dorsey
Baltimore City Council, 3rd District