

## **Testimony in favor of SB-0085**

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As a worker-owner in a bookkeeping cooperative founded over two years ago, I would like to testify in favor of SB-0085. We need to make it easier for worker-owned cooperatives to form in Maryland and this bill does simplify the process, and provides necessary clarifications for issues like Workers Compensation insurance for worker-owners.

The cooperative model is an excellent way to build wealth and improve productivity for workers who wish to engage in running their businesses. I was attracted to this model many years ago when I had the opportunity to live on an Israeli Kibbutz that was very much run like a cooperative with every member getting one vote. Cooperatives businesses offer the opportunity for customers to be served by a business owner which leads to higher levels of service, higher rates of customer satisfaction and improved operations. The worker-owners are able to keep their fingers on the pulse of their customers, and are thus better able to meet their needs,

Currently it is necessary for cooperatives to form as a corporation or LLC. Having a cooperative association option will make it easier for cooperatives to form and function, and help grow the sector in the state as has happened in the many other states that have created opportunities for forming cooperative enterprises.

Thank you for considering this legislation and I urge you to vote favorably on it's adoption.

Thank you.

Michael Rubin  
Worker-Owner, Resolve Financial Cooperative