



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Ricardo Nuñez** | President  
*Sustainable Economies  
Law Center, CA*

**Denise Hernandez** | Vice  
President  
*Cooperative Home Care  
Associates, NY*

**Diana Perez** | Secretary  
*Radiate NYC, NY*

**Mavery Davis** | Treasurer  
*CooperationWorks!, WV*

**Alan Luis Ramirez**  
*PODER Emma, NC*

**Kimberly Britt**  
*ChiFresh Kitchen, IL*

**April Taylor**  
*Solidarity Research Center,  
CA*

**Ellen Vera**  
*Co-op Cincy, OH*

**Dominique Pearson**  
*Philadelphia Area  
Cooperative Alliance, PA*

February 6, 2024

The Honorable Senator Washington and Maryland legislature,

The U.S. Federation of Worker Cooperatives supports Senate Bill 0085 that will support businesses formed as worker cooperatives in the state of Maryland, as well as the creation of new worker cooperatives that bolster local communities and secure good jobs that build wealth.

SB 0085 authorizes the formation of limited worker cooperative associations; establishing rules and procedures for the formation, governance, conversion, and dissolution of limited worker cooperative associations, addressing the need for clear guidelines for worker co-ops. There is currently confusion about how to incorporate, pay taxes, get loans, or run worker-owned businesses in compliance with state law; SB 0085 will provide clarity to entrepreneurs as well as the public and private organizations that support them.

As the national grassroots membership organization for worker -owned and -governed businesses, we closely track the successes and challenges of the 21+ worker cooperatives and democratic workplaces in Maryland. Worker ownership is proven to benefit businesses, workers, and local economies, with stronger overall business performance and resilience during economic downturns. We believe that SB 0085 will bring vitally needed clarity to a highly underserved sector of the small business community that, with proper support, would cultivate many more strong, thriving businesses in the state.

If you have any questions regarding our position please contact our Policy Director, Mo Manklang, at [mo@usworker.coop](mailto:mo@usworker.coop) or 215-703-7325

Sincerely,

Mo Manklang  
Policy Director