

My name is Sonia Sarkar and I am submitting favorable testimony for [SB 85](#) Corporations and Associations - Limited Worker Cooperative Associations - Authorization (Maryland Limited Cooperative Association Act).

I am a Baltimore City resident who supports local worker cooperatives such as Cajou Creamery, Obran Cooperative, Taharka Brothers, Mera Kitchen Collective, and Red Emma's. As an advisor to several minority-owned small businesses across the country, I have seen directly how worker cooperatives can generate wealth for individuals, businesses, and communities of color. In addition to providing valuable products and services for consumers, worker cooperatives also encourage shared decision-making rooted in local perspectives and offer a pathway to revenue and asset-building in neighborhoods that have experienced historical economic disinvestment.

Maryland has the opportunity to provide increased support and infrastructure for those who are interested in pursuing and growing cooperative structures. Such an effort will inevitably lead to job creation, greater economic development investment, and stronger, thriving communities.

I support this bill and thank you for your time.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sonia Sarkar".

Sonia Sarkar, DrPH
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