



Odette Ramos

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Testimony

**HB15 – Corporations and Associations – Limited Worker Cooperative Associations – Authorization
(Maryland Limited Cooperative Association Act)**

January 21, 2025

FAVORABLE

Honorable Chair Wilson and Distinguished Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

I am writing to urge your support for **HB15 – Corporations and Associations – Limited Worker Cooperative Associations – Authorization (Maryland Limited Cooperative Association Act)**.

HB15 would authorize the formation of limited worker cooperative associations including the establishment of rules and procedures, governance, conversion, and when needed, the dissolution of limited worker cooperative associations. This would provide the ability for another business type to be established that is currently not represented in statute.

Maryland recognizes Limited Liability Companies (LLC), and Limited Liability Partnerships (LLP) which do not provide the same opportunities and structure that the Limited Worker Cooperative (LWC) would, such as being worker-owned.

The cooperative industry is one made up of farmers, consumers, and other organizations where most are community centric. Cooperatives have been known to provide some vital services to different communities, like housing.

I am proud to represent the district that has the most worker-owned cooperatives in Baltimore City, and arguably the state. Our worker cooperatives include a coffee shop called Red Emma's, a hardware store called ACE Hardware, another coffee shop called Common Grounds, and a wine shop called the Wine Source. This bill would assist them in their businesses and will assist others working towards creating an LWC.

Please issue a favorable report for HB15,

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. I can be reached on 410-396-4814 or via email at odette.ramos@baltimorecity.gov.

Respectfully Submitted:

Odette Ramos
Baltimore City Councilwoman, 14th District

