



BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL

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January 17, 2025

The Honorable C. T. Wilson, Chair
The Honorable Brian M. Crosby, Vice-Chair
Members of the House Economic Matters Committee
230 & 231
Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland

**RE: Requesting Favorable Report – HB0015 - Maryland Limited Worker
Cooperative Association Act**

Dear Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman Crosby, and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee,

I am writing to urge you to issue a favorable report for **HB0015 - Maryland Limited Worker 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. HB0015 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 HB0015 is essential for promoting a more equitable business landscape. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Councilman Ryan Dorsey
Baltimore City Council, 3rd District