



Network for Developing Conscious Communities
28 46th Place North East
Washington, DC 20019

January 7, 2025

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Worker Cooperative Statute SB144/HB15, which aims to create a legal framework that enables the formation and operation of worker cooperatives within our state. Worker cooperatives are businesses that are owned and operated by their workers, offering a democratic structure that empowers individuals and fosters community development. The passage of this statute will provide crucial support for workers looking to establish cooperatives as a means of promoting economic stability, job security, and shared prosperity.

Key Benefits of the Worker Cooperative Statute:

1. **Empowerment and Economic Justice:** This legislation will empower workers by granting them the ability to take collective ownership of their workplace, allowing them to have a say in decision-making processes. This not only promotes economic justice but also fosters a sense of community and collaboration among workers.
2. **Job Creation and Economic Resilience:** Worker cooperatives have been shown to create stable, sustainable employment opportunities. By supporting the formation of these businesses, we can drive job creation in our communities and enhance economic resilience, particularly in times of economic uncertainty.

3. **Encouragement for Entrepreneurship:** The proposed statute will encourage entrepreneurship among workers who may not have access to traditional business ownership pathways. It creates a supportive environment for individuals to innovate and contribute to local economies.
4. **Alignment with Community Values:** Worker cooperatives align with the values of equity, inclusiveness, and sustainability. By endorsing this statute, we can build a stronger, more equitable economy that benefits everyone in our communities.
5. **Long-Term Success:** Research indicates that worker cooperatives have higher survival rates than traditional businesses. The legal protections and framework provided by this statute will enhance their long-term viability and success.

In conclusion, passing the Worker Cooperative Statute SB144/HB15 is a transformative step toward fostering economic democracy in our state. It reflects our commitment to creating jobs, empowering workers, and building a more just and equitable economy. I urge the committee to support this important legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to advancing policies that benefit workers and our communities.

Sincerely,

Ron Hantz
Executive Director
Network for Developing Conscious Communities

