

Greetings Honorable Chair and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am writing to express my support for the Maryland Limited Worker Cooperative Association Act (SB0144). I've been a homeowner in Baltimore for nearly 6 years, and am a frequent patron of our city's wonderful worker cooperatives including Red Emma's Bookstore and Coffee, Mera Kitchen, Common Ground Cafe, and Metta Integrative Wellness. These businesses are vibrant, contributing members to their communities and go far beyond just operating to create a profit for the worker owners. They engage in efforts to feed the community, provide learning opportunities on a broad range of issues and interests, and offer sliding scale services so folks with limited income can still enjoy the benefits of their businesses.

I understand the Maryland Limited Worker Cooperative Association legislation will make it easier for more worker cooperatives to be created in Maryland and wholeheartedly support those efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. I look forward to its swift passage out of committee this year!

Respectfully,

Amanda DeStefano  
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