

Candidate Statement: Karen Zimbelman

I'm writing to express my interest in being a candidate for NCBA CLUSA's Board of Directors. This candidate's statement offers some highlights from my 36 years of professional involvement with and service to cooperatives.

At this juncture, I'm interested in continuing to serve on the NCBA CLUSA Board of Directors for a number of reasons. To begin with, I bring the perspective of someone who has been involved with NCBA CLUSA for well over 30 years—starting when I was elected to the NCBA CLUSA Assembly, a group set up to provide greater opportunities for participation in NCBA CLUSA for smaller co-ops and individual members at a time when most (if not all) board seats were automatically conferred based on dues paid.

Secondly, I would like to continue to contribute to a stronger and more strategic working relationship between NCBA CLUSA and National Co+op Grocers. NCG values the work that NCBA CLUSA does on behalf of the entire co-op movement and recognizes the importance of a closer strategic partnership between the two organizations in service to our shared interests and specifically in support of the food co-op sector that we both work with.

Lastly, with not quite three full years of service on the NCBA CLUSA Board of Directors, I feel what I can contribute has barely been tapped. NCBA CLUSA is an organization that has seen significant organizational change in the past three years and is now well poised to help co-ops be a strong and vibrant part of the U.S. economy. We know we have plenty of change on the horizon, internally as well as within our country and movement. I would like to do my part to help maintain NCBA CLUSA's vision and momentum.

NCG is an organizational member of NCBA CLUSA. In addition, I am and have been an individual member for many years. I welcome any questions you or the Nominating Committee may have about me and my interest in serving on the board.