

Candidate Statement: Thaleon Tremain

To the members of NCBA CLUSA:

I would be honored to serve on your board of directors.

As CEO and co-founder of the Pachamama Coffee Cooperative, I represent thousands of family farmers from around the world who have joined forces to roast and market their specialty coffee in the United States. Established in 2001, Pachamama Coffee is a federated cooperative with five member-cooperatives from Peru, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Mexico and Ethiopia. Based in California, the co-op distributes its members' best coffee throughout the United States.

For the past 20 years, I have been an advocate for the cooperative business model as a practical means of sustainable development and self-governance. In the course of forming Pachamama, I have been the beneficiary of a great education in life, business and cooperation. International cooperative leaders like Raúl del Aguila of Peru, Merling Preza of Nicaragua and Tadesse Meskela of Ethiopia have been my teachers. At Pachamama, we stand on the shoulders of giants. The same could be said for NCBA CLUSA.

In addition a global perspective, I offer significant experience at the retail level in the United States, promoting the cooperative alternative to American consumers. Cooperatives have an important and compelling story to tell. Today, there is no better organization than NCBA CLUSA to tell this story. I believe that my experience at both ends of the cooperative supply chain will be an asset to your board of directors.

If elected to serve, I will bring a global perspective to cooperative development and valuable domestic insight to cooperative promotion. I will respect and embrace the opportunity to serve you. I am happy to answer any questions you may have, please contact me. You may learn more about Pachamama Coffee Cooperative and its member-cooperatives at www.pacha.coop.

Thank you for your consideration.