

Dear Representative _____:

I urge you to join the bipartisan Congressional Cooperative Business

Caucus. Cooperatives, also known as co-ops, empower its members and are significant contributors to the economy. Co-ops are a proven business model used to create and sustain jobs that provide valuable products and services across all sectors of the economy. Co-ops are also used to develop and sustain emerging democracies and civil societies around the globe.

This caucus is important because it creates a platform to better informing our elected officials on the important role that cooperatives play in the development of our national and international economy. The use of the cooperative business model can be viewed as a viable market solution and business option toward solving a number of today's public policy challenges. A cooperative's unique structure and characteristics lend itself to many distinct business and regulatory hurdles that need to be more fully understood so that policies can ensure that cooperatives thrive.

Cooperatives exist worldwide and inject \$3 trillion into the U.S. economy every year. They create millions of jobs; can be found in virtually every sector of the U.S. economy; and offer solutions to meet challenging public policy needs — from affordable housing, to quality sourced food, greater access to electricity, banking and credit needs, and for early childhood learning. They spur economic growth in underserved rural and urban America; empower individuals, families and communities to better their lives; and ensure that people have access to high-quality goods and services at competitive prices and costs.

Despite their position in the American economy, there remain substantial awareness challenges among the general public and the elected leaders that represent them on what a co-op looks like, who are co-ops, where are co-ops, and why do people choose them. The caucus will facilitate briefings to promote greater awareness and understanding of these issues. The caucus will also be a forum for members to share best practices and work to improve the effectiveness of policy to benefit and promote the cooperative business model nationally and internationally.

I encourage you to join the Congressional Cooperative Business Caucus and have your office contact the staff of co-chairs Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI) and Rep. Jim Baird (R-IN) to become a member.

