

Alex Green

Candidate Statement

It's not only young people today who feel the lack of affordability, agency and community in the institutions they rely on, but many youths are providing new visions for sourcing our basic, modern needs and are increasingly turning to cooperatives. Whether in internet, housing, electricity and green energy or food, people are more and more looking to local ownership and control to meet their needs.

The common struggles of inequality, lack of self-determination and disaffection are not only the surprisingly common threads tying progressive young people to forgotten and marginalized communities, but they are also issues that cooperatives are uniquely positioned to solve. Our cross-sector cooperative movement must be prepared to offer the mix of solutions that only cooperatives can bring. As an experienced leader from the youth cooperative movement, I aim to work with NCBA CLUSA staff and directors to position the cooperative sector to take advantage of this energy and enthusiasm for our model.

With over a decade of cooperative governance experience and a professional background in accounting, finance and planning, I have the necessary skills to be an effective director at NCBA CLUSA. Yet the benefits of my directorship would be most felt in working to integrate these complementary visions for modern cooperative needs into NCBA CLUSA's strategies. How can we ensure that cooperatives are a discussed and supported alternative when communities consider options like municipal broadband or investing in their own solar-electric power grid? How can we effectively advocate for and coordinate financing for these new ventures? And how can we prepare young cooperative leaders to support the organizing and become the employees needed for such projects to succeed?

I want to provide my unique perspectives to discussions of how NCBA CLUSA's advocacy, education and networking can support both existing and emergent industry needs, while also helping the organization to successfully connect with the next generation of cooperators. Simultaneously, I hope to continue to grow as a cooperative leader, exposing myself to the challenges and emergent innovations in the various industries of the cooperative sector. NCBA CLUSA prioritizes leadership development as a vital component of building a more cooperative future, and I hope to lend my abilities to that cause.