

## Deborah Trocha

### CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I am seeking your vote as I run for the Board of Directors of the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International (NCBA CLUSA). It has been an honor to contribute to our shared success, and I welcome the opportunity to continue to serve the cooperative movement in this role. I believe wholeheartedly in the cooperative business model and its ability to build a better world.

Through cross sector collaboration we have the ability to empower our members, our communities, our states, our nation, and the world to create the change we want and desire. I have worked throughout Indiana to foster this spirit of cooperation and collaboration by providing opportunities for cooperatives to come together and get to know each other through our annual Crossroads Cooperative Summit.

As a cooperative development center director, I strongly believe that the growth of the cooperative sector is critical to the continued growth and vitality of our economy. In this role, I collaborated with a local food co-op to create a national conference for start-up food co-ops – Up & Coming. Through cooperation and collaboration with a number of partners, we responded to a need for cooperative education, and over 12 years have educated thousands of food co-op organizers.

As a provider of technical assistance, ICDC has been instrumental in creating and growing co-ops in a variety of sectors including food, agriculture, housing, the arts, and professional services. Cooperatives continue to play an increasingly important role in facilitating job creation, economic growth and social justice. In collaboration with the Indiana Center for Employee Ownership, we have educated small businesses currently owned by baby boomers – 42,000 representing 500,000 employees in Indiana alone. The opportunity co-ops offer as a business succession strategy to preserve jobs and communities could grow the movement at an unprecedented pace.

I bring enthusiasm and passion for the cooperative business model and an unwavering dedication to the highest standards of ethics and integrity.

Thank you for your consideration.