

CHRISTINA JENNINGS

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I respectfully submit my nomination for re-election to the Board of Directors of NCBA CLUSA. I have over 25 years of experience working with CDFIs and in international microfinance, and more than 16 years of experience managing a cooperative. As the Executive Director of Shared Capital Cooperative, I have worked to support and strengthen cooperatives across the United States through equitable access to capital.

Shared Capital Cooperative is a \$25 million CDFI loan fund that is cooperatively owned by 330 small and mid-sized cooperatives and finances worker cooperatives, consumer food co-ops, and housing cooperatives. Over the past 16 years, I have led Shared Capital Cooperative through significant growth. Under my leadership, the organization has expanded its national reach, undertaken a major rebranding and repositioning, strengthened its cooperative identity and governance practices, developed innovative capital strategies such as preferred shares and a national Direct Public Offering, and deepened its commitment to racial equity and justice.

The coming years will be critical for NCBA CLUSA and the broader cooperative ecosystem in the U.S. and globally. I am a strong candidate to be part of the Board of Directors as we work together to help govern and guide the organization because I have (1) significant board governance experience, (2) knowledge of core areas of NCBA CLUSA's domestic and international work, and (3) a deep commitment to the mission of NCBA CLUSA.

Over the past 25 years, I have served on more than a dozen local and national boards. I currently serve as Treasurer of the board of the Cooperative Development Foundation and the board of a Minneapolis-based community land trust. During my first term on the NCBA CLUSA board, I actively engaged in leadership roles, serving for one year as Secretary and currently as Second Vice Chair. I initially served on the Finance and Audit Committee and now serve on both the Governance Committee and the Executive Committee. I have gained valuable experience and insights that I can build upon in a second term.

I bring an understanding of the U.S. cooperative ecosystem, including the unique challenges faced by small and early-stage cooperatives, as well as the incredible impact these cooperatives can have on their members and communities. In addition, I have experience in international development in Latin America, which provides valuable insights into NCBA CLUSA's global cooperative development work.

NCBA CLUSA and the cooperative sector face significant challenges, including uncertainty in federal funding and increasing attacks on DEI and related initiatives. The challenge before us is to continue working to support cooperative in order to build an inclusive economy that centers economic democracy and shared prosperity.

I welcome the opportunity to continue serving on the Board of Directors and to bring my experience, leadership, and commitment to provide guidance to NCBA CLUSA. Thank you for your consideration.