

CORNELIUS BLANDING

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

This statement is a sincere attempt to express my continued interest in and commitment to serving on NCBA CLUSA's Board of Directors. I have served five terms, learned a lot and hope that I have brought a different, yet valued, perspective of cooperatives and cooperative development to the work and vision of NCBA as it relates to serving its members and representing cooperatives from various sectors, regions and backgrounds. I wish to be re-elected to another term and look forward to continuing to serve and represent limited-resource cooperatives, communities of color in the Deep South and the cooperative movement as a whole.

I still believe in the power of cooperation among cooperatives and truly believe that cooperatives are only as strong as their memberships and networks. My passion continues to be to keep limited-resource cooperatives in the South connected to the larger cooperative movement and vice-versa. My purpose is to ensure that cooperatives are always an option and tool for limited-resource communities to build wealth. My commitment is to NCBA and the cooperative community in our collective efforts to build a better world and more inclusive economy.

Furthermore, I remain deeply committed to continuing my service on the board during this period of organizational restructuring. While shifting administrative priorities and a rapidly changing world have created real pressures, I believe steady leadership, thoughtful stewardship and a clear focus on our mission are more important than ever. I am fully prepared to contribute my time, experience and judgment to help guide the organization toward stability and renewed strength.