

Maria Miller's Candidate Statement:

The cooperative business model has stood the test of time. Today, people are organizing cooperatives to meet new challenges in entirely new markets.

The National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA) is charged with being an educational and advocacy organization that advances the opportunities for cooperative businesses. As someone whose personal and professional life is built on cooperative business principles, I want to be a part of NCBA CLUSA's actions to build a better future for cooperatives and their members.

There has never been a better time for cooperative businesses to thrive, from local food cooperatives to worker cooperatives. My experience in teaching the value of cooperatives to beginning farmers, young adults, and college students is driving my interest in expanding the cooperative educational opportunities nationwide. My decades of experience as a past family farm and insurance agency owner allows me to contribute an understanding of management and decision-making. I am currently serving on the Executive and Governance committees of the National Farm to School Network and serve on an advisory committee for the Farmer Veteran Coalition.

I work for an organization whose history is woven together with those of some of the most successful cooperatives in America. National Farmers Union (NFU), along with its state chapters, helped form the forerunners of CHS, Inc., credit unions, rural electric and telephone cooperatives, and value-adding processing, marketing and service cooperatives.

Through NFU, I have worked with NCBA CLUSA on referring our members for international farmer exchanges. Many have returned reporting their experience as life changing.

I believe that as an NCBA CLUSA Board member, I can offer ways for you to continue to serve the needs of your members. My experience as the director of a national foundation representing farmers, ranchers and consumers of all ages brings diversity to a cooperative board.