

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Join the Bipartisan Cooperative Business Caucus Today!

From: The Honorable Ed Royce
Sent By: Saad.Alety@mail.house.gov

From: The Honorable Mark Pocan
Sent By: Sydney.Terry@mail.house.gov

January 13, 2016

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join the newly formed bipartisan Congressional Cooperative Business Caucus. The Congressional Cooperative Business Caucus will serve as a venue for discussion to further educate and inform the Congress and public on the impact of cooperative businesses on the national and global economy and the development of policies that promote the use of the cooperative business model.

A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise. Businesses operating under a cooperative form utilize a model through which those using the entity's goods or services are actively involved in the governance of the organization and whose profits belong collectively to them.

Cooperatives exist worldwide and inject \$3 trillion into the U.S. economy every year. They create millions of jobs; can be found in virtually every sector of the U.S. economy; and offer solutions to meet challenging public policy needs—from affordable housing, to quality sourced food, greater access to electricity, banking and credit needs, and for early childhood learning. They spur economic growth in underserved rural and urban America; empower individuals, families and communities; and ensure that people have access to high-quality goods and services at competitive prices.

Cooperatives, despite their prevalence in the economy and positive consumer attitudes toward them, are not readily understood due to their complex nature. The caucus will facilitate briefings to promote greater awareness and understanding. The caucus will also be a forum for members to share best practices and work to improve the effectiveness of policy to benefit and promote the cooperative business model nationally and internationally. It will also seek to advocate on federal policy issues unique to the cooperative community to make sure policymakers are mindful of them and enact cooperative-friendly legislation that supports cooperative development and growth.

To join the Congressional Cooperative Business Caucus or for additional questions, please contact Saat Alety from Representative Royce's office at Saat.Alety@mail.house.gov or Syd Terry from Representative Pocan's office at Sydney.Terry@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

MARK POCAN

MEMBER OF CONGRESS