

CALIFORNIA

ASSETS: **\$166 BILLION**

REVENUE: **\$37 BILLION**

MEMBERS: **13.4 MILLION**

JOBS CREATED: **41,000**



CALIFORNIA CO-OPS AT A GLANCE

Co-ops in California are working to build a better world by creating quality jobs, building community wealth, protecting the environment, reducing poverty and strengthening the local economy.

PACHAMAMA COFFEE COOPERATIVE

Sacramento-based Pachamama brings consumers premium, organic coffee directly from more than 140,000 small farmers in Latin America and Africa. Pachamama is the first and only coffee roaster in the U.S. owned and controlled by its farmers, who benefit from 100 percent of its profits.

PROJECT EQUITY

Project Equity is a nonprofit worker co-op developer that helps start, grow and convert businesses to worker ownership. Project Equity believes that increasing worker ownership is a path back to an economy that works for all Americans.



CALIFORNIA TOP CO-OPS BY SECTOR

UTILITY: **760**

HOUSING: **589**

CREDIT UNIONS: **519**

CHILDCARE: **267**

AGRICULTURE: **146**

HEALTHCARE: **72**

INSURANCE: **65**

ABOUT CO-OPS

According to federally-supported research by the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, co-ops inject \$3 trillion into the U.S. economy every year. Located in every state and every Congressional district in the U.S., co-ops create millions of jobs and offer solutions to meet challenging public policy issues—from affordable housing to early childhood learning. They spur economic growth in underserved rural America; empower individuals, families and communities; and ensure that Americans have access to high-quality goods and services at competitive prices from businesses they trust.

GOVERNOR BROWN SIGNS CALIFORNIA WORKER CO-OP ACT

In August 2015, California Governor Jerry Brown signed the California Worker Co-op Act into law, part of a growing movement in the state to create jobs and spur economic growth by supporting small businesses that are democratically owned and operated by their workers.

NCBA CLUSA welcomes this move as an example of the incorporation of the enabling legislation needed nationwide to create a legal environment conducive to cooperative growth. Currently, only half of the states in the U.S. have co-op statutes. NCBA CLUSA advocates for a 50-state approach to cooperative law.

California's new law, Assembly Bill 816, removes unnecessary barriers to the creation of new worker cooperatives and improves operations for some existing worker cooperatives.

"The California Worker Cooperative Act provides a clear legal template for the formation of worker-owned businesses," said East Bay Community Law Center staff attorney Sushil Jacob. "By providing a pathway to incorporation and a clear legal structure, AB 816 will encourage the creation of new businesses and jobs that build the assets



The California Worker Cooperative Act is the latest example of a growing movement to strengthen local economies by creating small businesses that are democratically owned and operated by their workers.

of working people throughout the state."

State Assemblymember Rob Bonta, who introduced the bill, called worker-owned businesses "central" to a full economic recovery and a solution to the income-inequality gap.

"As low-income communities continue to struggle with the dual problems of high rates of unemployment and low-wages, worker-owned small businesses have emerged as an effective way to rebuild the local economy and address economic inequality," he said.

Founded in 1916, the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International is the trade association for cooperative businesses in the U.S. and an international development organization active in Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America. For 100 years, NCBA CLUSA has advanced, promoted and defended co-op enterprise, highlighting the impact that co-ops have in bettering the lives of individuals, families and communities.

NCBA CLUSA
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