

To the House Labor Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for **HB 7964 / SB 2744**, the RI Opportunity for Employee Ownership Act.

This legislation represents a vital step forward for the Rhode Island economy. By providing small business employees with a 30-day notice and the opportunity to purchase their workplace cooperatively, this Act empowers workers and ensures that successful local businesses stay rooted in our communities.

The provisions of this Act, specifically the creation of a statewide technical assistance resource list and education on employee-ownership options, will provide the necessary infrastructure to help businesses transition smoothly. This is a proven model for maintaining legacies and strengthening the financial resilience of local workers.

Employee-owned cooperatives keep wealth within our state and foster a more stable, committed workforce. I urge the committee to support this bill and help expand these opportunities for Rhode Islanders.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Tammy Kim

**Gentle Strength Herbal Coop**