

Good morning,

My name is Tripp Hopkins, and I am a resident in the Wanskuck neighborhood zip code 02908 here in Providence. I am also one of the owners of Small Format, a worker-cooperative third space, art gallery and cafe on Wickenden Street. I am writing today to voice my own and my team's support for HB 7964, the Opportunity for Employee Ownership Act.

Worker cooperatives are emerging as a driving force for worker's rights and the continuation of our long-standing small businesses here in Providence and across Rhode Island. Many people are not aware of the possibility of worker ownership, and allowing this bill to pass would shed light onto the future of what Rhode Island's business economy could look like. I implore you to consider passing this bill with the attention it deserves. Not only would you be benefiting the working class Rhode Islanders who drive the economy, you would also be opening the door for much more diverse commerce and ideas that may have not been able to be realized otherwise to enter the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. I look forward to hearing the results of tonight's hearing at the State House.

Sincerely,  
Tripp Hopkins (He/They)  
Small Format Cooperative