## **Candidate Statement: Diane Gasaway**

NCBA CLUSA serves as an important advocate to the cooperative community by crossing sector and geographical boundaries. As a leader of cooperative development in the Northwest, I view this as my work, too. Interacting and networking with cooperators from all sectors and levels of engagement is critical to the success of the movement as a whole. Like others involved in this work, my dream is for cooperatives to be the mainstream business model, not the "alternative" model—albeit a good alternative!

The movement needs a national advocate and NCBA CLUSA has positioned itself to be the face and convener of cooperatives from around the world. Its members are representative of their diverse co-op membership.

My interest in serving as on NCBA CLUSA's Board of Directors is to continue to strengthen and deepen strategic partnerships necessary to grow cooperative businesses in the U.S. and to seek out unique opportunities to foster new and existing government and private support needed to help cooperative entrepreneurs move their dreams into reality.