

# Bylaws Amendment Pro Statements

## Pro Statement 2

### Removal of Council Member

*Sponsored by Kara Cusolito, Council Member*

Shall GreenStar's bylaws be amended as proposed, to grant Council the power to remove one of its members by a three-quarters majority at a regular Council meeting?

We should amend our bylaws to allow for Council to remove one of its members at a regular meeting. Currently, removal from a Council seat (except for cases of absenteeism) is allowed only by a member petition and member vote approval by  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority, which is a very public and potentially humiliating method.

Since the removal of a Council member by membership vote was adopted in the mid-1980s, our membership has grown from a few hundred to tens of thousands. A vote which requires that the details of a proposed for misconduct removal be shared publicly among thousands of members is an unkind and unnecessary level of public humiliation. In addition, a member meeting, vote and associated mailing comes at a cost of up to thousands of dollars for the cooperative. This method is not tenable, either socially or fiscally.

It is also likely that if this measure were ever needed, it would be due to fiscal or legal irresponsibility or dishonesty on the part of a Council member, which would necessitate swift action in order to protect the cooperative. The requirement of a member meeting and vote would delay that process in a potentially dangerous manner.

Council has the tremendous responsibility of the oversight of our Co-op on behalf of our member-owners. If the super-majority three quarters of those seated on Council feel that another Council member should be removed, it will be exceedingly rare and almost certainly with just cause.

With this amendment in place, GreenStar members will retain the ability to remove a Council member by a majority vote. The amendment merely allows those elected to govern GreenStar to act quickly in the event that it needs to in the process of fulfilling its duty to our membership and our cooperative.

**Note: GreenStar solicited member-owners for con statements, and none were received, thus only pro statements are presented here.**