



STATEMENT FROM

## Manya Larson

When I chose to move my family to the Rapid City area, over a decade ago now, I developed a list of priorities of which I was choosing to move to the area for. “Community” was the first word on that list. (Water was second!) I don’t believe we move into a space and it’s just there, built, waiting for us. I believe it’s a base, of which we apply ourselves and continue to grow it with nourishment. The nutrients come in the day-to-day interactions we have with others and with the environment. I grew up on a working ranch and farm, one where most of our food was raised and grown on our lands. My parents were both very involved in teaching us animal husbandry, garden tending, food preservation, and self-reliance. I deeply value the connection we have with food. I would love to see that gap bridged from the very hard-working producers that grow our foods in wholesome ways, to us, the recipients of the nutrition that keeps us feeling well. I believe that we need a large turn around in our nation within the food industry and that this pivot begins on a local scale. I affirm the Cooperatives Bylaws, Policy Manual, and the Board’s latest Strategic Plan.

My vision with this interest in being a Board Director for our cooperative is to give support to something that has been a very positive resource for myself, my family, and our community’s wellbeing. I went from driving three hours to shop at Breadroot, following it to several locations, to now having the joy of watching it bloom with abundance. I have contemplated the idea of being involved on the Board level for years though wasn’t sure of my ability to bring anything to the table, so to speak. I guess the beautiful thing about gaining wisdom is finding the clarity of oneself. I have experience not only in operating on a Board of Directors, work experience in a food cooperative, but more importantly I have lived the life of farm to table and have researched and been curious about our connection to food in this way my entire life. I am a believer in leading by example, sharing information, and applying generosity. I find energy going out, comes back around. Economics are a very important part of this picture. If we all continue to pour into this notion, I know we can tip the scales, so to speak, by ensuring that quality foods are available in abundance to all, and that we are supporting our local community. I feel that our cooperative is the foundation for such possibilities.