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**CENTRAL OFFICE**

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Our Ref: **AJ/cr**  
Date: **14 April 2014**  
Contact: **Corrine Ramm**  
Extension: **2576**

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Dear board member

I am writing to express the concerns of over 1200 Unite the union members employed by the Co-operative Group. I am the national officer responsible for Unite members at the Co-op which primarily includes workers in Co-op Retail Logistics but also members in other areas of the business.

The vast majority of our members appreciate the unique ethos of the Co-op and its' values and ethics are held in great regard. However the recent public politicking has caused great anguish for our members who fear that the board level power struggle is putting their livelihoods at risk.

The future of the Co-op is not just about the make up of the board and the influence or perceived influence of regional boards and independent societies. It is also about the families of thousands of Co-op workers whose futures are on a knife edge.

This is why we now feel we are left with no alternative but to state our position to all of the regional boards in the hope that the group can move forward, prosper and offer a secure future for our members and members of the Co-operative.

Having considered the progress update by Lord Myners published in March we are fully in support of a comprehensive review of governance at the Co-op. Unite as the largest union in Britain has many thousands of members in the retail and logistic arms of the Co-op's competitors. On a daily basis we see the speed the sector is moving and with such pace, that unless the review is completed, there will be no chance of the Co-op being able to compete in such a cut-throat sector.

The Co-op offers a unique alternative to profit hungry retailers. It is a trusted and loved brand, but our members' trust and confidence in the current governance structure and its ability to make the necessary changes to ensure competitiveness and security has been severely dented by recent publicity.

In this light we urge you to support the proposals made by Lord Myners and show a clear commitment to the core values of the Co-op. You are in the privileged

position to take the Co-op into a new era, but this can only be done under a new governance structure.

Unite believes that the basic proposals put forward by Lord Myners secure a structure that meets the organisation's needs and has the potential to meet the challenges faced in the current economic climate. We further believe that strengthening the "one member one vote" principle returns the Co-op to its natural roots.

We write this letter out of necessity because our members see no alternative. They see no viable plan B coming forward that changes the governance structure that ensure we have a board in place with the knowledge, experience and skills to secure the future, not only of our members but of the Co-op as a whole.

We hope that you will be able to support reform and please don't hesitate to contact myself should you have questions or queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Jones', written in a cursive style.

Adrian Jones  
National Officer, RTC/LRD