

GRAIN TRAIN BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**Candidate Statements 2026**

**JESS LEBRESH**

EDUCATION: BA Economics, University of Michigan

**Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors of Grain Train Co-op?**

I love living in Petoskey, and I would like a larger role in creating a warm and welcoming community.

**What are you passionate about? How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?**

I am incredibly passionate about animal rights. I am a vegan and animal rights activist. I just returned from NY, working with Animal Equality on their campaign to win a cage free policy for Ahold Delhaize stores.



**Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?**

As answered above, I have just returned from working with the Animal Equality team. Though I am one of the newer activists, I volunteered to lead the team so that we were able to take part in impactful actions that otherwise would not have been possible. My compromise was trading the anxiety of being a new leader for the excitement of doing as much as possible to help innocent animals.

**Do you have other experiences that you see as being related to the work of the Board?**

I was on the board for the Robert Emmet Society when I returned from Ireland. I believe I was instrumental in making the next scholar as confident as possible about what to expect as an American student in Ireland.