

WHEREAS; cooperatives are businesses, organizations, and associations that are locally built by people who join together to solve a problem or meet a need in their community; and

WHEREAS; cooperatives exist to meet a wide range of needs, including the marketing and purchasing of farm products, financial services, electric, communications, cable, and broadband services, healthcare services, housing, insurance, and food; and

WHEREAS; in 1887, Wisconsin became one of the first states to enact a law authorizing cooperatives, paving the way for other states to follow and establishing our state as a leader in cooperative development; and

WHEREAS; today, cooperatives continue to play a major role in the lives of Wisconsinites, with member-owners throughout the entire state depending on Wisconsin's more than 700 cooperatives to market and supply an array of goods and services; and

WHEREAS; cooperatives contribute billions of dollars to the national economy and support thousands of jobs in Wisconsin, bolstering the state's agricultural sector, rural economic development, and rural prosperity, in particular; and

WHEREAS; cooperatives widely follow seven principles—voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, member economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, training, and information, cooperation among cooperatives, and concern for community—all of which foster a culture of mutual respect, equality, and autonomy among members-owners and organizations; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins cooperatives throughout the state in celebrating their commitment to providing community-oriented services and in acknowledging how cooperatives greatly improve well-being and quality of life for all Wisconsinites;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 2022 as

COOPERATIVE MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 19th day of September 2022.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State