



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Celebrating Co-op Month during the month of October has deep roots in Minnesota, with the first official state proclamation being signed by Minnesota Governor Luther Youngdahl in 1948. The celebration became national in 1964, when former Minnesota Governor Orville Freeman, then U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, proclaimed a national Co-op month; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota was one the first states to enact a law authorizing cooperatives; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota has a proud heritage of people working together for a mutual benefit, which promotes community well-being and improved quality of life for its citizens; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesotans currently depend on approximately 830 "co-ops to market," which supply agricultural products, credit, financing, electricity, transportation, health care, food, housing, insurance, and many other products and services; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota is home to the highest number of cooperatives, the most types of cooperatives, and the highest number of cooperative memberships in the Nation; and
- WHEREAS: Cooperatives are on the cutting edge, helping meet today's toughest economic challenges, including: reducing America's reliance on fossil fuels; keeping badly needed jobs and financial resources in local communities; empowering workers; teaching students financial skills; helping farmers grow crops with fewer chemicals; and delivering health care options that put people first.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2014, as:

## CO-OP MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September.

  
GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE