**2016 CO-OP MONTH
PROCLAMATION/DECLARATION TEMPLATE**

**for Local Governments**

WHEREAS, “Co-op Month” officially became a national event in 1964, being celebrated each October in the Unites States of America; and

WHEREAS, co-operatives are businesses that are locally owned by everyday people who join together to solve a problem, meet a need or achieve shared goals; and

WHEREAS, co-operatives are recognized in the laws and statutes of [ENTER STATE NAME] as member-owned, democratically controlled enterprises, giving people a real stake in their communities and their economic destiny; and

WHEREAS, co-operatives meet a wide range of essential needs including accessing healthy food, employment, marketing and purchasing farm products, providing financial services (credit unions), delivering electric, telephone and cable services, and providing health care, housing, and insurance; and

WHEREAS, today an estimated [INSERT YOUR STATE’S NUMBER MEMBERS: CT: 913,000; ME: 630,000; MA: 2.5 million; NH: 476,000; RI: 355,000, VT: 350,000] member-owners in our state depend on approximately [INSERT YOUR STATE’S NUMBER OF CO-OPS: CT: 325, ME: 150, MA: 530, NH: 205, RI: 75, VT: 130] co-operatives to meet a wide variety of needs, goals and aspirations; and

WHEREAS, co-operatives play a major role in the economy of [ENTER STATE NAME], annually recording an estimated [ENTER ANNUAL REVENUE FOR YOUR STATE HERE: CT: $2.9 billion; ME: $7.5 million; MA: $3.3 billion; NH: $641 million; RI: $382,000; VT: $1 billion] in revenue; and

WHEREAS, the co-operative philosophy of working together for the common good has promoted community well-being and improved the quality of life for the citizens of [ENTER CITY/TOWN NAME];

WHEREAS, the theme established by the National Co-operative Business Association for 2016 is “Co-operatives Build,” emphasizing the manner in which co-operative enterprises build their communities, grow jobs, and root economic infrastructure in our region;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, [INSERT NAME], [INSERT TITLE: Mayor, Town Council Chair, etc.] of [ENTER NAME OF CITY OR TOWN] in the State of [ENTER STATE NAME], do hereby proclaim the month of October 2016 to be

**CO-OPERATIVE MONTH**

in the [CHOOSE ONE: “City” or “Town”] of [ENTER CITY/TOWN NAME], in the State of [ENTER STATE NAME] and I salute co-operatives and their members for the role they play in building our community and serving our citizens.

HELPFUL NOTES:

* Each city or town office may have a form you need to fill out for a Proclamation and will likely need to be submitted ***at least*** one month in advance. Contact your city or town office for details on how to make a proper request in your community. If there are other co-ops or credit unions in your town, consider asking them to join you in submitting the Proclamation.
* State statistics provided above are from the University of Wisconsin Center for Co-operatives 2009 study. For more information or to double check your state’s stats, visit: <http://www.uwcc.wisc.edu/pubs/CurrentResearch/state-by-state.aspx>. For state specific NFCA statistics, visit <http://www.nfca.coop/members> and click on your state.
* Please let us know if your city or town approves a Proclamation! If you have any questions or comments on the above, please feel free to contact Erbin Crowell, Executive Director, Neighboring Food Co-op Association at erbin@nfca.coop.