**2020 CO-OP MONTH
PROCLAMATION/DECLARATION TEMPLATE**

**for Local Cities & Towns**

WHEREAS, the first national “Co-op Month” was celebrated in 1964 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and has since been celebrated every October in the United States of America; and

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

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

WHEREAS, co-operatives enable people to meet a wide variety of needs, goals and aspirations including healthy food, employment, farm products, financial services (credit unions), electric, telephone and cable services, and health care, housing, and insurance; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, there are about 65,000 co-operatives, and one out of every three people is a member of a cooperative. Around the world, there are about 3 million co-operatives, and about 12% of the human population are members of a co-op. About 10% of the world’s population, or around 280 million people, are employed by co-ops.

WHEREAS, co-operatives play a major role in the regional economy of [ENTER CITY/TOWN NAME]; 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]; and

WHEREAS, [ENTER YOUR FOOD CO-OP NAME] is joining with other members of the Neighboring Food Co-op Association in endorsing the Co-op Month 2020 theme established by the National Co-operative Business Association, “Co-ops Commit to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion,” emphasizing the manner in which co-operative enterprises are rooted in their communities and empower people to meet their needs, together;

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 2019 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 we salute co-operatives and their members for their commitment to our community and the role they play in serving our citizens.

HELPFUL NOTES:

* Submitting a local Co-op Month proclamation is a great way to raise awareness of the difference that co-ops make in our communities every day.
* Note that the NFCA will be submitting proclamations at the state level. You can help by proposing proclamations at the local level of your town or city government.
* Your city or town office may have a form you need to fill out for a Proclamation and that 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.
* For state specific Food Co-op 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 us at info info@nfca.coop.