



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee's cooperatives improve the well-being of rural residents and communities across our state by providing electric, internet and telephone services to homes, farms and rural businesses; financing for land, assets and inputs; products and services for growing and marketing crops and livestock; and insurance for individuals and family businesses, resulting in employment for thousands of Tennesseans; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennesseans are currently served by some 200 cooperatives through more than 6,000 employees working together to impact our state's economy by more than \$1 billion, supporting schools and local infrastructure through tax contributions; enhancing our commitment to and focus on rural economies; and shaping our state's future; and

**WHEREAS**, the cooperative business model illustrates the very best of the American way through members who choose to share in successes and participate in local, democratic, community ownership and representation, where shared profits are distributed by reducing costs of products and services or by providing patronage refunds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Council of Cooperatives functions as the state's flagship organization for coordinating, promoting, educating and extending cooperative development in Tennessee, often serving as a clearinghouse for the open exchange of information and experiences among cooperative businesses, a sounding board for new ideas, and a forum for discovery, discussion, and dissemination of information, resulting in the affordable application of the most beneficial technologies and initiatives to our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, today more than 75 percent of Tennessee's rural residents are served by a cooperative; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Tennessee recognizes it is in Tennessee's best interest to keep the cooperative spirit alive in its citizens through education about how cooperative business benefits them, ensuring support of cooperatives as they work with their members to supply rural economies with access to products and services necessary for success in the future;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim October 2018 as

*Cooperative Month*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this fourth day of September, 2018.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of the Secretary of State in blue ink.

Secretary of State

