



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, among other services, Tennessee cooperatives work to 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, 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 \$1.2 billion, supporting schools and local infrastructure through our commitment to the growth of rural economies; and

WHEREAS, rural cooperatives are an important partner with today's farmers as they work diligently to produce safe, abundant, dependable, and affordable food and fiber for both a rapidly growing world population and an increasingly interconnected and health-conscious local consumer; 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 community ownership; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Council of Cooperatives (TCC) functions as the state's flagship organization for extending cooperative development in Tennessee, often serving as a catalyst for the open exchange of information and experiences among cooperative businesses; and

WHEREAS, TCC is positioned to be a springboard to introduce and implement plans and programs relevant to cooperatives by sponsoring six college scholarships for agricultural students at each of Tennessee's four-year universities with agricultural programs; and

WHEREAS, by hosting an annual leadership conference with emphasis on cooperatives for approximately 500 young leaders, TCC also supports the Tennessee FFA Cooperative Challenge as well as other related programs, seminars, and conferences; and

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

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee recognizes it is important to keep the cooperative spirit alive through education and ensuring support of cooperatives as they work with their members to supply rural economies with access to products and services crucial to a successful future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee do hereby proclaim October, 2022 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 seventh day of June, 2022.

Bill Lee

Governor

Joe Hargett

Secretary of State