



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**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 proactively 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**, the Tennessee Council of Cooperatives 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**, 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 the future;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee do hereby proclaim October 2023 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 fifth day of September 2023.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Lu Weng*

Secretary of State