

STATE OF MONTANA



Governor's Proclamation



WHEREAS, Montana cooperatives date back to the early 1900s and continue to be a sustainable form of business, serving Montanans in every corner of the state; and

WHEREAS, Co-op Month has been a nationally recognized celebration since 1964, when U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, proclaimed October Co-op Month; and

WHEREAS, Montana cooperatives provide approximately 23,000 jobs across the state and over 7 billion dollars of output into the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, Montana cooperatives provide 1.6 million dollars in annual income to Montana families, building economic power for even the smallest of communities in Montana; and

WHEREAS, the vibrant Montana cooperative community provides electricity, broadband, financial services, and value-added agricultural opportunities for Montanans, while sustaining essential services such as grocery stores and housing;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Gianforte, Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim October 2023

COOPERATIVE MONTH

in Montana to honor all the hard working men and women utilizing and sustaining cooperative businesses across the state.

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor