

# STATE OF MONTANA



## *Governor's Proclamation*



*WHEREAS, Montana Cooperatives have a long history in Montana, dating 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' average wages are 47 percent higher than the state's average wage, helping build economic power for families across Montana; and*

*WHEREAS, Montana Cooperatives create over 24,000 jobs across the state; and*

*WHEREAS, the Montana cooperatives provide electricity, broadband, financial services, and value-added agricultural opportunities, while also sustaining essential services such as grocery stores and housing;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Gianforte, Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim October 2024*

### **COOPERATIVE MONTH**

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

**GREG GIANFORTE**

**Governor**