

State of Misconsin 2011 - 2012 LEGISLATURE



2011 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 69

Relating to: declaring October 2011 as Co-op Month. 1 2 Whereas, cooperatives are independent, member-owned and controlled 3 businesses, organized to process and market products and goods for their members; 4 and Whereas, cooperatives serve many needs, including credit and financial 5 6 services, health care, child care, housing, insurance, and legal and professional 7 services; and 8 Whereas, cooperatives sell food, farm supplies, hardware, and recreational 9 equipment, and provide electricity, telephone, and Internet services; and 10 Whereas, today approximately 2.7 million Wisconsinites depend on 11 approximately 650 cooperatives to provide these needed goods and services; and 12 Whereas, cooperatives help grow Wisconsin's economy, supporting nearly 13 30,000 full-time jobs for Wisconsin residents and recording about \$8.6 billion in 14 gross sales each year; and

2011 – 2012 Legislature

1 Whereas, Wisconsin was one of the first states to enact a law authorizing 2 cooperatives, in 1887, spurring the growth of electric, telephone, and agricultural 3 cooperatives and town mutual associations; and

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Whereas, the first Wisconsin rural electric cooperatives started in Richland Center and Columbus in May of 1937; the Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company was one of the first telephone companies incorporated in 1905; and the first grain farmer cooperative started in Madison in 1857; and

8 Whereas, Wisconsin's strong roots as a co-op state continue today since two in 9 every five people in the United States belong to a cooperative; now, therefore, be it 10 **Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That** that the Wisconsin 11 legislature declares October 2011 as "Co-op Month" and encourages Badger State 12 residents to recognize the important role that cooperatives play in their everyday 13 lives.

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(END)