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State of Misconsin 2011 - 2012 LEGISLATURE



2011 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 69

October 25, 2011 - Introduced by Representatives Nerison, Ripp and Vruwink, cosponsored by Senator Schultz. Referred to Committee on Rules.

Relating to: declaring	October 2011	as Co-op Month.
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Whereas, cooperatives are independent, member-owned and controlled businesses, organized to process and market products and goods for their members; and

Whereas, cooperatives serve many needs, including credit and financial services, health care, child care, housing, insurance, and legal and professional services; and

Whereas, cooperatives sell food, farm supplies, hardware, and recreational equipment, and provide electricity, telephone, and Internet services; and

Whereas, today approximately 2.7 million Wisconsinites depend on approximately 650 cooperatives to provide these needed goods and services; and

Whereas, cooperatives help grow Wisconsin's economy, supporting nearly 30,000 full-time jobs for Wisconsin residents and recording about \$8.6 billion in gross sales each year; and

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

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

Whereas, Wisconsin's strong roots as a co-op state continue today since two in every five people in the United States belong to a cooperative; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That that the Wisconsin legislature declares October 2011 as "Co-op Month" and encourages Badger State residents to recognize the important role that cooperatives play in their everyday lives.

14 (END)