

State of Misconsin 2013 - 2014 LEGISLATURE



## **2013 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 58**

October 9, 2013 – Introduced by Representative NERISON, cosponsored by Senator MOULTON. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1	Relating to: declaring October 2013 Co-op Month.
2	Whereas, cooperatives are independent member-owned and
3	member-controlled businesses, organized to process and market products and goods
4	for their members; and
5	Whereas, cooperatives serve many needs, including credit and financial
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 2.9 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	20,000 jobs for Wisconsin residents and recording about \$8.6 billion in gross sales
14	each year; and

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

8 Whereas, Wisconsin's strong roots as a co-op state continue today, and 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** the Wisconsin 11 legislature declares October 2013 "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)