

**State of Vermont**  
**Executive Department**  
**A Proclamation**

- WHEREAS,** “Co-op Month” officially became a national event in 1964, celebrated across the country each October; and
- WHEREAS,** cooperatives are businesses that are locally owned by everyday people who join together to solve a problem, meet a need or achieve shared goals; and
- WHEREAS,** cooperative enterprises – including food co-ops, worker co-ops, credit unions, farmer co-ops, artisan co-ops, utilities co-ops, and housing co-ops – are owned and democratically controlled by their member-owners and give people who belong to cooperatives a real stake in their communities and their economic destiny; and
- WHEREAS,** cooperatives are recognized in the statutes of the state of Vermont, including Title 11, Chapter 7: Cooperatives, Chapter 9: Worker Cooperative Corporations, and Chapter 14: Cooperative Housing Ownership Act, providing the basic framework for the formation and operation of cooperatives as member-owned and governed enterprises, operating on a not-for-profit basis for the benefit of their membership; and
- WHEREAS,** today, an estimated 35,000 member-owners in the state of Vermont depend on approximately 130 cooperatives to meet a wide variety of needs, goals, and aspirations; and
- WHEREAS,** cooperatives play a major role in the economy of the state of Vermont, annually recording an estimated \$1 billion in revenue; and
- WHEREAS,** the cooperative philosophy of working together for the common good has promoted community well-being and improved the quality of life for the citizens of the state of Vermont; and
- WHEREAS,** the theme established by the National Cooperative Business Association / CLUSA International for 2017 is “Cooperatives Commit,” emphasizing the manner in which cooperative enterprises are committed to their communities, to growing local jobs, and building economic infrastructure in our region.

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, do hereby proclaim October 2017

**CO-OP MONTH**

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 12th day of September, A.D. 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", written over a horizontal line.

Philip B. Scott  
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney L. Wilson", written over a horizontal line.

Brittney L. Wilson  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs