

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** the first national “Co-op Month” was celebrated in 1964 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and has since been celebrated every October in the United States of America; and
- WHEREAS,** co-operatives and credit unions are businesses that are locally owned by everyday people who join together to achieve shared goals, solve a challenge, or meet a community need, together; and
- WHEREAS,** co-operatives are recognized in the laws and statutes of the State of Vermont as member or user-owned, user governed, and user benefiting businesses, with the use of the term “co-operative” limited to enterprises operating in this manner; and
- WHEREAS,** co-operatives enable giving people work together to meet a wide variety of needs, goals and aspirations including healthy food, employment, farm products, financial services (credit unions), electric, telephone and cable services, and health care, housing, and insurance; and
- WHEREAS,** in the United States, there are about 65,000 co-operatives, and one out of every three people is a member of a at least one co-op or credit union. Around the world, there are about 3 million co-operatives, and about 12% of the human population are members of a co-op. About 10% of the world’s population, or around 280 million people, are employed by co-ops; and
- WHEREAS,** co-operatives play a major role in the regional economy of the State of Vermont; and
- WHEREAS,** the co-operative 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 United Nations has declared 2025 to be the Second International Year of Co-operatives, celebrating how “Co-operatives Build a Better World” and highlighting the contribution of the co-ops to sustainable development, economic inclusion, and resilient communities; and
- WHEREAS,** the Neighboring Food Co-op Association has endorsed the Co-op Month 2024 theme established by the National Co-operative Business Association / CLUSA International, “The Future is Co-operative,” emphasizing the manner in which co-operative enterprises are building a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economy that works for everyone.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim the month of October,
2024 as

CO-OP MONTH
in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of
Vermont on this 30th day of September, A.D. 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip B. Scott". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brittney Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Brittney Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs