



STATE OF NEBRASKA



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Nebraska's farmer-owned agricultural cooperatives were formed over a century ago. They provide Nebraska farmers and ranchers the ability to participate in and control the purchasing of their inputs and the marketing of their commodities in order to participate in the economic and competitive benefits of ownership; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's rural electric and telephone cooperatives, which are owned by those they serve, are the means by which utility services were extended to thousands of rural Nebraskans and continue to be maintained to this day; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's consumer, grocery, value-added, and financial cooperatives provide opportunities for all Nebraskans to participate in the mutual benefits of ownership and economic benefit that membership in a cooperative provides; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's farmer-owned agricultural cooperatives maintain facilities and employment locations in 404 rural communities in Nebraska; directly employ over 5,300 Nebraskans; provide community support of over \$1.8 million annually in the form of scholarships to rural students and support of school organizations, youth activities, and rural fire departments; reinvested \$157 million last year in facilities to serve Nebraska's farmers and ranchers; and paid their farmer and rancher patron owners nearly \$50.7 million in cash patronage and equity redemption payment; and

WHEREAS, The Nebraska Cooperative Council is celebrating its 75th anniversary as the state's only trade association devoted exclusively to advancing, protecting, and promoting the cooperative business model.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, **DO HEREBY PROCLAIM** the month of October 2020 as

COOPERATIVE MONTH

in Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due note of the observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Tenth day of September, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty.



Attest:

Secretary of State

Governor