



State of Rhode Island
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Co-operative Month

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 to achieve shared goals, solve a challenge, or meet a community need; and

WHEREAS, co-operatives enable people to 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 Rhode Island; 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 Rhode Island's residents; and

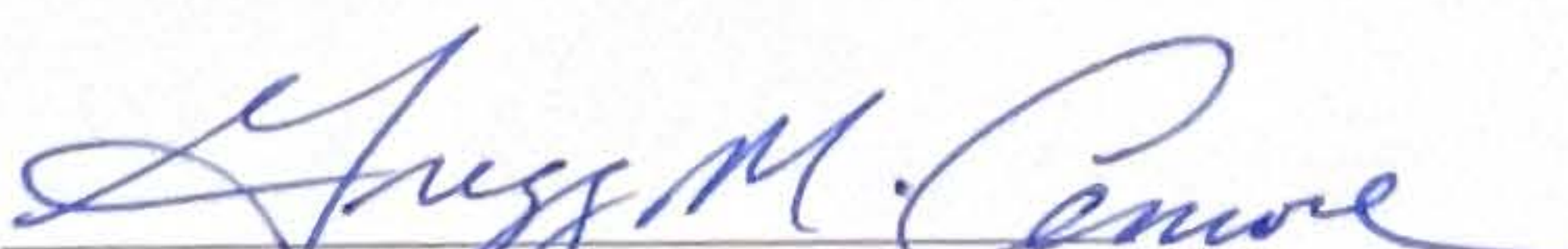
WHEREAS, the United Nations has declared 2025 to be the Second International Year of Co-operatives, highlighting the contribution of co-ops to sustainable development, economic inclusion, and stronger communities; and

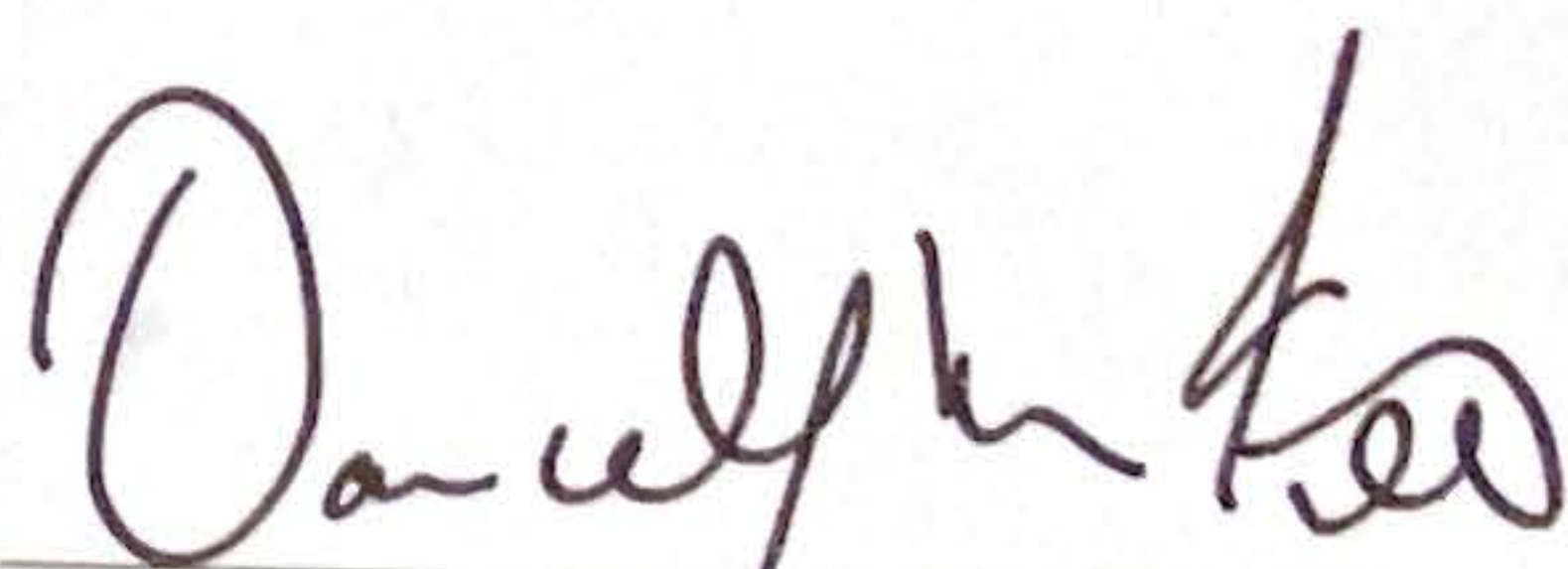
WHEREAS, the Neighboring Food Co-op Association and the Rhode Island Worker Cooperative Alliance have endorsed the Co-op Month 2025 theme, "Co-operatives Build a Better World," which was established by the National Co-operative Business Association to celebrate the Year of Co-operatives and raise awareness of co-ops as a trusted, proven way to do business and build resilient, sustainable, and inclusive communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel J. McKee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim October to be **Co-operative Month** in the State of Rhode Island and urge all residents to recognize this week and participate fittingly in its observance.

*Given under my hand and the seal of the
Governor of the State of Rhode Island,
this 1st day of October, 2025.*




Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State


Daniel J. McKee
Governor