

Proclamation



DC CO-OP MONTH

OCTOBER 2017

WHEREAS, co-operatives are local businesses owned by people who come together to solve a problem, meet a need or achieve a goal and are recognized by the laws and statutes of Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, co-operatives meet a wide range of essential needs including accessing healthy food, employment, marketing and purchasing farm products, providing financial services, and delivering utility service, health care and housing; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are 420,000 member-owners on approximately 272 co-operatives who help meet a wide variety of needs; and

WHEREAS, co-operatives are recognized in the laws and statutes of Washington, DC as member-owned enterprises, affording individuals a real stake in their communities and economic destiny; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia government has included cooperative development initiatives to help with economic growth and community members and local institutions are supported by the District's Department of Small and Local Business Development; and

WHEREAS, Washington, DC is home to many of the national membership and advocacy organizations that represent more than 29,000 cooperatives throughout the United States, has 350,000 members and generates more than \$650 million in annual revenue:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF WASHINGTON, DC, do hereby proclaim October in Washington, DC as "DC CO-OP MONTH."



