

## **2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 89**

October 27, 2009 – Introduced by Representatives NERISON and VRUWINK. Referred to Committee on Rules.

**Relating to:** declaring October as Co-op Month. 1  $\mathbf{2}$ Whereas, cooperatives are independent, member-owned and controlled 3 businesses, organized to process and market products and goods for their members; 4 and 5 Whereas, cooperatives serve many needs including credit and financial 6 services, health care, child care, housing, insurance, legal and professional services; 7 and Whereas, cooperatives sell food, farm supplies, hardware, and recreational 8 equipment and provide electricity, telephone, and Internet services; and 9 10 Whereas, today approximately 2.7 million Wisconsinites depend on 11 approximately 800 cooperatives to provide these needed goods and services; and Whereas, cooperatives help grow Wisconsin's economy, employing more than 12 1323,000 Wisconsin residents and recording about \$5.6 billion in gross sales each year; 14 and

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1	Whereas, Wisconsin was one of the first states to enact a law authorizing
2	cooperatives in 1887, spurring the growth of electric, telephone, and agricultural
3	cooperatives and town mutual associations; and
4	Whereas, the first Wisconsin rural electric cooperatives started in Richland
5	Center and Columbus in May 1937; the Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company
6	was the one of the first telephone companies incorporated in 1905; and the first grain
7	farmer cooperative started in Madison in 1857; and
8	Whereas, Wisconsin's strong roots as a co-op state continue today since two in
9	every five people in the United States belong to a cooperative; now, therefore, be it
10	Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the Wisconsin
11	legislature declares October 2009 as "Co-op Month" and encourages Badger State
12	residents to recognize the important role that cooperatives play in their every day
13	lives.
14	(END)

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