



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Monday, October 2, 2006**

**CONTACT: Art Jaeger**  
**(202) 383-5462**  
**ajaeger@ncba.coop**

## **North Dakota Rep. Pomeroy Kicks off National Co-op Month**

Washington, DC—Representative Earl Pomeroy (D-N.D.), co-chair of the Congressional Farmer Cooperative Caucus, kicked off National Co-op Month by urging his House colleagues to help celebrate “the tremendous role that cooperative businesses play in our nation’s economy.”

In a statement placed in the Congressional Record Friday, Pomeroy noted that October is National Cooperative Month. He urged others in Congress to join with co-ops in their districts to celebrate their role in the economy as well as their value to their communities.

Cooperatives are democratically owned and controlled businesses that are motivated by service to their member-owners in addition to their bottom lines. Examples include credit unions, food co-ops, rural utility co-ops, and farm co-ops. October has been set aside for celebrating the special nature of cooperatives since at least 1930.

Pomeroy said that his home state—North Dakota—has more than 300 cooperatives and that these cooperatives contribute more than \$1.6 billion the state’s economy. Nationwide, he said, cooperatives pump more than \$200 billion into the economy and serve an estimated 130 million people.

“These cooperatives operate in virtually every industry, including agriculture, energy, financial services, food retailing and distribution, housing, healthcare and telecommunications,” Pomeroy said. “They range in size from small storefronts to large Fortune 500 companies, employing more than 500,000 Americans.”

Pomeroy noted that the theme for Cooperative Month 2006 is “Owned by Our Members, Committed to Our Communities.” “I urge my colleagues to join with cooperatives in their districts...in celebrating the role of cooperatives in our economy and their value to their communities,” he said.

Co-ops of all types can find a wealth of information and ideas for celebrating Co-op Month on the National Cooperative Month website, [www.coopmonth.coop](http://www.coopmonth.coop).

Financial support and overall guidance for co-op month activities comes from the National Cooperative Month Planning Committee, made up of national co-op membership organizations and a few large co-ops.

Members of the committee for 2006 are the Cooperative Development Foundation, Credit Union National Association, Farm Credit Council, National Association of Federal Credit Unions, National Association of Housing Cooperatives, National Cooperative Bank, National Cooperative Business Association, National Cooperative Grocers Association, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, National Farmers Union, National Milk Producers Federation, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, National Telecommunications Cooperative Association, Overseas Cooperative Development Council, Rural Business & Cooperative Services program of the Department of Agriculture, and the World Council of Credit Unions.