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National Grange Joins Coalition for Paper Options to Preserve Information Access for Rural Communities

Coalition for Paper Options Advocates for Policies to Preserve Paper-Based Resources for Americans who Need or Want Them

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 28, 2017) – The [Coalition for Paper Options](#) (CPO), an alliance of consumer organizations, labor unions and print communications industry representatives dedicated to protecting Americans’ right to freely access paper-based information, proudly welcomes its newest member: [The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry](#) (the National Grange).

“The National Grange is committed to ensuring information access for all communities, and for many Americans, especially those in rural areas, paper-based information remains critical,” said Burton Eller, legislative director for the National Grange. “As a member of the Coalition for Paper Options, we will be able to give our members even more of a voice in advancing policies that preserve and protect information access.”

“As the federal government, like the private sector, has ramped up its digital access, it has often been too quick to eliminate important paper-based information,” said John Runyan, executive director of the Coalition for Paper Options. “One-third of all American households lack regular Internet access, and nearly 40 percent of rural Americans – 23 million people – don’t have broadband service, yet critical services continue to go completely digital every year.”

Runyan continued, “It’s critical that our nation embraces technology without penalizing so many of its citizens who still need traditional access to services offered by government and the private sector.”

The Coalition for Paper Options’ federal policy agenda currently includes:

- **Preserving Access to SEC Shareholder Reports**
Even though investors can already choose to receive mutual fund shareholder reports online, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has proposed regulation (Rule 30e-3), which would make electronic delivery the default method to transmit shareholder reports and other important information to investors. Implementing this change will potentially harm millions of investors – the majority of whom have already expressed a preference for paper-based investment materials – and launch cybersecurity threats.
- **Restoring Mailed Social Security Earnings Statements**
Earlier this year, the Social Security Administration (SSA) suspended the mailing of Social Security Statements – which have been described as the most important financial planning tool that most Americans will ever see – to workers under the age of 60. The move came despite a



measure in the Fiscal Year 2014 funding bill requiring the SSA to “significantly restore” the mailing of earnings statements.

- **Reinstating Mailed Tax Forms to Taxpayers Filing on Paper**

The IRS no longer mails tax forms—overlooking the 30 million Americans who file their returns by mail and the fact that many libraries and post offices no longer carry them. The Coalition for Paper Options advocates for policy to restore the mailing of tax forms and instructions to taxpayers who filed on paper during the previous tax season.

About the Coalition for Paper Options

The Coalition for Paper Options is an alliance of consumer organizations, labor unions, rural advocates, and print communications industry organizations and employees who recognize the need to preserve access to important paper-based information and services for Americans who prefer them or depend on them. While the Coalition for Paper Options supports the use of technology, we believe that the government and private sector should promote digital services and information without discriminating against citizens who want or need more traditional access. By giving Americans a choice, we can bridge the digital divide and save millions of dollars – without shifting cost burdens to citizens who can least afford them. For more information and a list of members, visit www.paperoptions.org.