



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Tobacco Farmers Deliver Petition for Dissolution and Distribution of  
\$30 million to Co-op**

LEXINGTON, Ky. Jan. 31, 2020 – Burley tobacco farmers have delivered signed petitions from more than 20 percent of the Burley Co-op members calling for dissolution of the Burley Co-op and the distribution of its approximately \$30 million back to the farmers.

While it was expected to take as long as two weeks to get the necessary signatures from 10 percent of the Co-op Members, more than 20 percent of the Members turned in signed petitions in the first three days.

“We’ve continued to meet with dozens and dozens of farmers, and the overwhelming response from tobacco farmers has been simple – the Co-op no longer serves a valid purpose, and they want the more than \$30 million distributed out to the membership,” reported Nathan Billings, attorney for the farmers.

“The co-op lost millions of dollars in the past few years, and never told us,” said Greg Craddock, a tobacco farmer from Metcalfe County calling for the dissolution and distribution. “We’re tired of their mishandling the farmer’s monies, lack of communication and other issues. We want the money distributed out to us, before it’s all gone!”

Nathan Billings stated that signed petitions have been delivered to the Co-op, and that the Special Meeting to vote on dissolution and distribution is required to be held on April 8, 2020. The Notice of Special Meeting, a Proxy Ballot (farmers don’t need to attend in person – they can send in their ballot by mail), and the Plan of Dissolution were delivered with the signed petitions. The Co-op has no discretion– it must hold a meeting and must send out the Notice, Proxy Ballot and Plan to the Members by February 26. The next Co-op Board meeting is Wednesday, February 5, at which time it is expected that the Board will comply with the petitions and approve sending these documents out to the Co-op’s Members.

Tobacco farmers who want to vote for dissolution can still certify their Membership by calling the Co-Op at (859) 252-3561.

For more information on the petition to call for special meeting, how to verify membership in the Co-op, or how to certify their membership, farmers can visit [www.blfky.com/burley](http://www.blfky.com/burley), or call Billings Law Firm at (859) 225-5240.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

Billings Law Firm

(859) 225-5240

[www.blfky.com/burley](http://www.blfky.com/burley)