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For Immediate Release

### **Innovation advocacy group MOJO Minnesota Forms as a Co-op.**

(Byline): Unique structure adopted to fuel entrepreneurship, innovation in MN.

MOJO Minnesota is proud to announce that it has gained legal status as a MN co-operative. This innovative structure provides the foundational support for MOJO to continue to lead the entrepreneurial charge in Minnesota and beyond. Inspired by Minnesota's agricultural and populist heritage, MOJO chose the co-op structure to minimize as many of the "traditional" corporate barriers as possible, allowing people, ideas, companies and capital to flow together as efficiently as possible.

The International Co-operative Alliance states: "A co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise." The MOJO members (Agitators) strongly believe that entrepreneurship and innovation are both social as well as economic issues and play a vital role in community development. MOJO seeks to satisfy the needs of our community through collectively and freely coming together – one person, one vote – to promote innovation policy and community in Minnesota.

MOJO Co-Founders Brad Lehrman and Ernest Grumbles indicated that "this structure reflects the spirit of energy, self-reliance, community-building and risk-taking that are at the core of MOJO. We have seen a lot of progress in our state since our inception, and we are excited to continue assembling the resources and assets available in our great state to keep the MOJO rising!"

MOJO Minnesota is an innovation advocacy force comprised of like-minded business leaders working to fuel entrepreneurship and reignite Minnesota's culture of innovation. Our goals are to provide a unique voice and support to Minnesota-grown innovation and shine the light on amazing new technologies developed here that will propel us into becoming a top 5 nationally ranked state for innovation and growth. We do this through state policy advocacy, creating and hosting unique and interactive community and mentoring events and fostering an active and growing dialog that connects like-minded entrepreneurs, investors, industry groups and corporate partners in bringing Minnesota's rich innovation heritage back into national prominence. For more information, see [www.mojominnestota.com](http://www.mojominnestota.com)

The MOJO Agitators are:

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Ernest Grumbles	Brad Lehrman	Joy Lindsay	Mary Meehan
Damian Novak	Marti Nyman	Jeff O'Dell	Parag Shah

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