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**MIDWESTERN GOVERNORS SUPPORT BOLD U.S. ENERGY GOAL  
Join Growing Nationwide, Bipartisan Call for Renewable Energy**

St. Paul, MN – Citing the importance of developing more renewable energy sources in the U.S., Gov. Tim Pawlenty announced the Midwestern Governors Association’s support of the 25x’25 energy initiative. Gov. Pawlenty chairs the 13-member Midwestern Governors Association. The Governors join a growing, bipartisan list of endorsers who support establishment of a national goal, calling for 25% of our nation’s energy supply from renewable sources by 2025.

“If there is one issue that unites Midwestern governors, it is the goal of fully utilizing the economic, environmental and national security benefits of increased production and consumption of biofuels and bioenergy,” explained Jesse Heier, Washington Director of the Midwestern Governors Association.

Over the last two years, support has been building for this initiative, which would tap renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, biogas and biofuels. More than 250 organizations and businesses from across the country have endorsed the vision. Among these are the American Farm Bureau Federation; Deere & Co.; the Big 3 U.S. Automakers (Chrysler, GM, and Ford); the National Wildlife Federation; the Natural Resources Defense Council; and the National Education Association.

A bipartisan group of Senators and Representatives recently introduced a congressional resolution, calling for 25% of the nation’s energy supply from renewable sources by 2025. The number of congressional supporters continues to grow as more and more elected officials hear from constituents who are fed up with high energy prices.

“The American public is looking for solutions to their energy woes and we believe that renewable energy from the land can provide the answers,” said J. Read Smith, co-chair of the 25x’25 Steering Committee. “We are extremely pleased to see elected officials, both Democrats and Republicans, grasp this important vision. Setting a bold goal is an important first step toward turning this dream into a reality.”

In addition to Pawlenty, the current members of the Midwestern Governors Association include: Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt, Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman, North Dakota Gov. John Hoeven, Ohio Gov. Bob Taft, South Dakota Gov. M. Michael Rounds, and Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle.

The purpose of the Midwestern Governors Association is to foster regional development, attain greater efficiency in state administration, facilitate interstate cooperation and improve intergovernmental relationships, and to provide a medium for the exchange of views and experiences on subjects of general importance to the people of the Midwestern states.

NOTE: A copy of the endorsement by the Midwest Governors Association can be viewed at: [www.midwestgovernors.org](http://www.midwestgovernors.org) For more information on the initiative, go to: [www.25x25.org](http://www.25x25.org)

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