



April 6, 2006

Dear Attendees:

As Midwestern governors, we are all extremely pleased to welcome you to BIO 2006. For the first time in the convention's thirteen year history, it is taking place in the U.S. Midwest. We are looking forward to showcasing the Midwest's strengths in the field of biosciences in what is expected to be the greatest turnout ever with over 20,000 life science professionals attending from more than 60 countries and all 50 states.

The Midwest has a long and rich history in biotechnology. Our region of the country has a solid pro-business infrastructure, an abundance of venture capital, excellent academic and research organizations-- all of the Big 10 Universities enjoy nationally recognized and funded research programs, and many of the world's best-known life sciences companies, including Abbott, ADM, Baxter, Cargill, Dow AgriSciences, Dupont-Pioneer, Guidant, Lilly, Medtronic, Monsanto, Proctor & Gamble and many others.

The BIO Convention—appropriately nicknamed “The Olympics of Biotech”— consists not only of learning about emerging bioscience technologies, but also networking with your peers from other states and nations who share your passion for the biosciences. It is a great forum for you to make special announcements heralding progress in your own states, with the media communications apparatus organized to spotlight new developments.

Once again, we welcome you to BIO 2006 and hope you enjoy the next several days as much as we do. Get ready to participate in the world's most prestigious and best-attended annual international biotechnology business event.

Sincerely,

Rob R. Blagojevich
Governor of Illinois

Matt Blunt
Governor of Missouri

Mitch Daniels
Governor of Indiana

Dave Heineman
Governor of Nebraska

Tom Vilsack
Governor of Iowa

John Hoeven
Governor of North Dakota

Kathleen Sebelius
Governor of Kansas

Bob Taft
Governor of Ohio

Mike Rounds
Governor of South Dakota

Jennifer Granholm
Governor of Michigan

Jim Doyle
Governor of Wisconsin

Tim Pawlenty
Governor of Minnesota

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Matt Blunt
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Mitch Daniels
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M. Michael Rounds
South Dakota

Kathleen Sebelius
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