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NEWS RELEASE

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Midwestern governors call for Congressional action to help farmers and ranchers.

Washington, DC – Eight Midwestern governors recently wrote to U.S. Senate and House leaders urging congressional action to help farmers and ranchers suffering from drought and other natural disasters. “Farmers and ranchers throughout the country have been confronted with high temperatures and little rain throughout most of the summer. There is strong bi-partisan support in the heartland to assist our farmers and we encourage Congress to act quickly in this time of need,” said Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, Chairman of the Midwestern Governors Association.

“Agriculture continues to be an important part of the Midwestern economy. When Midwestern farmers and ranchers thrive, not only does the Midwest benefit, but the entire country is assured of high quality and affordable food and other agriculture products,” said Jesse Heier, MGA Washington Director.

This letter urges the federal government to provide drought relief to farmers and ranchers hit hard by the drought. In addition to Pawlenty, the letter was signed by Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman, North Dakota Gov. John Hoeven, South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds and Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle.

The MGA is a nonprofit, bipartisan organization that brings together top state leaders to work cooperatively on significant public policy issues in the Midwest. The purpose of the MGA is to foster regional development, facilitate interstate cooperation, improve intergovernmental relationships, and provide a medium for the exchange of views and experiences of subjects of general importance to the people of the Midwestern states.