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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Governor Tim Pawlenty announces his MGA chairman's agenda**  
*Providing a Midwestern voice on the upcoming Farm Bill reauthorization*

**Washington, D.C.** – Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, newly elected chair of the Midwestern Governors' Association, today announced that his chairman's agenda will focus on providing policy objectives and recommendations on the 2007 Farm Bill to Congress. Midwestern governors have been national leaders in agriculture and are well-positioned to contribute to the federal discussion. As part of this effort, Pawlenty has asked Midwestern governors to appoint their top policy experts to a working group to compile a booklet outlining the region's bi-partisan priorities in the 2007 Farm Bill. This group will combine the knowledge of the Midwestern states to produce constructive suggestions on how best to support Midwest farmers.

A prominent piece in the Farm Bill reauthorization is the potential expansion of new energy solutions. President George W. Bush has called for the country to embrace the use of bio-renewable fuels in order to decrease the nation's reliance on imported oil. Due to its abundance of corn, switch grass, and soybeans, the Midwest is the perfect foundation upon which to build development, production and consumption of bio-renewable fuels—a hallmark issue of Governor Pawlenty in Minnesota. Pawlenty has asked governors to appoint another policy expert to a working group focused strictly on this opportunity to increase energy independence, stimulate economic development, and keep the environment clean.

“Midwestern governors have a terrific opportunity to provide important recommendations into many areas of the Farm Bill, especially the development of alternative fuels.” Pawlenty said. “Utilizing common sense, homegrown renewable fuels is good for our national security, our environment and our economy. I am excited to work with my fellow MGA governors developing recommendations for this and other important Farm Bill issues.”

Midwestern governors have been spearheading efforts to produce more innovative energy—cutting-edge research and development, new plant construction, as well as holding their states to high standards in the utilization of bio-renewable fuels. By working together as a region, Pawlenty hopes to lead the Midwest's contribution to future Farm Bill policy as well as serve as an example to the country concerning the benefits of bio-renewable fuels.

*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 of subjects of general importance to the people of the Midwestern states.*

*In addition to Pawlenty, the current members of the Midwestern Governors Association include: Gov. Rod Blagojevich (IL), Gov. Mitch Daniels (IN), Gov. Tom Vilsack (IA), Gov. Ernie Fletcher (KY), Gov. Kathleen Sebelius (KS), Gov. Jennifer Granholm (MI), Gov. Matt Blunt, (MO), Gov. Dave Heineman (NE), Gov. John Hoeven (ND), Gov. Bob Taft (OH), Gov. M. Michael Rounds (SD), and Gov. Jim Doyle (WI).*

Chair

**Tim Pawlenty**  
Minnesota

Past Chair, 2005

**Rod Blagojevich**  
Illinois

**Matt Blunt**  
Missouri

**Mitch Daniels**  
Indiana

**Jim Doyle**  
Wisconsin

**Ernie Fletcher**  
Kentucky

**Jennifer Granholm**  
Michigan

**Dave Heineman**  
Nebraska

Past Chair, 2004

**John Hoeven**  
North Dakota

**M. Michael Rounds**  
South Dakota

**Kathleen Sebelius**  
Kansas

**Bob Taft**  
Ohio

Past Chair, 2001

**Thomas J. Vilsack**  
Iowa