



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jesse Heier
(202) 624-5460
November 3, 2007

Washington D.C. – The Midwestern Governors Association (MGA) applauds the Department of Homeland Security on their revised chemical security regulation that raises the threshold for stored propane from 7,500 pounds to 60,000 pounds. This change comes after the members of MGA wrote a letter to Jim Nussle, director of the Office of Management and Budget, which highlighted concerns with the DHS rule requiring individual home, or business owners, who store 7,500 or more pounds of propane to complete a safety analysis of their propane tanks.

The MGA wrote the letter to protect the region's rural homeowners, farmers and small businesses from a potentially burdensome regulation and to urge federal officials to reconsider an administrative rule on stored quantities of propane. MGA members understand the importance of protecting chemical facilities across the country but had concern with the “Top Screen” safety analysis that would cost between \$2,300 and \$3,500 per survey for each facility. The scope of the regulation would have placed a burden on rural home, agricultural and small businesses in the Midwest.

MGA is pleased with the new chemical security regulation by DHS that raised the amount of propane to 60,000 pounds. This new propane threshold will allow DHS to protect chemical facilities across the country but will not have a disproportionate impact on rural Midwesterners.