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## **Gov. Tim Pawlenty Announces Midwestern Governors Association's Recommendations for the Farm Bill**

*Emphasis placed on increasing production and consumption of biofuels*

Washington, D.C. – Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, chair of the Midwestern Governors Association (MGA), today has announced the MGA's recommendations for the upcoming Farm Bill. These recommendations cover thirteen specific issues associated with the Farm Bill and place additional emphasis on increasing the production and consumption of biofuels.

"Midwestern governors are at the cutting edge of developing alternative fuels," Gov. Pawlenty said. "These fuels are key to our efforts to grow our economy and gain energy independence. With the upcoming reauthorization of the Farm Bill, Midwestern governors have a unique opportunity to advance these priorities at the federal level. I am excited to work with my fellow MGA governors and congressional leaders on these important issues."

Midwestern governors play a particularly critical role in supporting federal agriculture policy as the region continues to be a leader in national agricultural and livestock production. It is the MGA's hope that the final 2007 Farm Bill recognizes the Midwest as a prominent stakeholder in agricultural policy and protects the interests of the agricultural industry as it is vital to the livelihood of many rural communities.

In 2006, as part of his MGA Chairman's agenda, Pawlenty asked his fellow Midwestern governors to formulate recommendations that build on the vitality of Midwestern farmers and producers. Specific recommendations to Congress for the next Farm Bill include:

- Embracing a nationwide Renewable Energy Standard such as 25 percent of our nation's energy being derived from renewable sources by 2025;
- Reviewing all federal regulations to ensure they are not inadvertently stifling renewable energy production;
- Authorizing and implementing a permanent and predictable disaster assistance program;
- Preserving a strong and stably funded conservation title; and
- Creating a dedicated funding source to detect and manage invasive species transported to the United States via transportation activities.

The complete text of the recommendations is located at [www.midwesterngovernors.org](http://www.midwesterngovernors.org).

In addition to Pawlenty, current members of the MGA are Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, Iowa Gov. Chet Culver, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt, Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman, North Dakota Gov. John Hoeven, Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, South Dakota Gov. M. Michael Rounds, and Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle.

*The purpose of the MGA 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.*

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Chair  
**Tim Pawlenty**  
Minnesota

Past Chair, 2005  
**Rod Blagojevich**  
Illinois

**Matt Blunt**  
Missouri

**Chet Culver**  
Iowa

**Mitch Daniels**  
Indiana

**Jim Doyle**  
Wisconsin

**Jennifer Granholm**  
Michigan

**Dave Heineman**  
Nebraska

Past Chair, 2004  
**John Hoeven**  
North Dakota

**M. Michael Rounds**  
South Dakota

**Kathleen Sebelius**  
Kansas

**Ted Strickland**  
Ohio