



Midwestern Governors Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Midwestern States Leverage Buying Power for Biobased Products

Washington, D.C. – The Midwestern Governors Association (MGA) is pleased to announce that guidelines for implementing a regional bioproduct procurement system have been established. The guidelines create common definitions and standards for biobased products. They also set out methods for the procurement of those products by states in the Midwest. The system's lists of products will make it easier for state procurement officials to choose bioproducts.

The system is a result of the bioproduct procurement resolution in the MGA's *Energy Security and Climate Stewardship Platform* (Platform), which the governors signed in November 2007.

"As our nation continues face high energy costs, states must look for ways to decrease our dependence on fossil fuels. Bioproducts will play a key role in achieving that goal," said South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds, MGA chair.

Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle added: "The Midwest states must lead the clean energy revolution by example. State procurement of biobased products will increase demand for bioproducts. This new demand will make it easier for states to purchase bioproducts as well as boost a vital clean energy industry that will help households across the Midwest reduce our dependence on foreign oil."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture currently administers a federal program called "Biopreferred", a procurement preference program for bioproducts among federal agencies. The MGA's program was modeled after the federal system and is designed to interact with it in order to add additional bioproduct options for state procurement officials.

"We already invest a lot as a region to promote biofuels and biomass industries," said Jeff Holden, director of procurement management for the state of South Dakota. "This effort will make sure that tax dollars used for government procurement of items also creates a market to

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help jump-start a new and exciting homegrown industry in bioproducts, and helps us achieve our goals for procuring environmentally preferred products."

To carry out the Platform's resolution on bioproduct procurement, a task force was established to implement the system. With the guidelines for defining and methods for procuring biobased products finalized, the task force is now establishing the physical system and interface.

Development of the bioproduct procurement system was professionally facilitated by the Minneapolis-based Great Plains Institute, a non-partisan nonprofit corporation assisting the MGA in implementing the Platform.

The MGA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that brings together the governors of 12 states to work cooperatively on public policy issues of significance to the Midwest. In addition to Rounds and Doyle, the current members of the MGA include: Gov. Rod Blagojevich (Ill.), Gov. Mitch Daniels (Ind.), Gov. Chet Culver (Iowa), Gov. Kathleen Sebelius (Kansas), Gov. Jennifer Granholm (Mich.), Gov. Tim Pawlenty (Minn.), Gov. Matt Blunt (Mo.), Gov. Dave Heineman (Neb.), Gov. John Hoeven (N.D.), and Gov. Ted Strickland (Ohio).