



Midwestern Governors Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***MGA URGES EPA TO UPHOLD
RENEWABLE FUELS STANDARD***

Washington, D.C. – Leaders of the Midwestern Governors Association (MGA) urged Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Stephen Johnson to uphold the federal government's new and higher Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) by not granting waivers.

South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds and Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm sent the letter on behalf of the MGA. The letter supports current law and specifically focuses on the national benefits associated with the increase use of renewable fuels, such as ethanol. These benefits include decreasing the nation's dependence on oil, improving rural economies, and reducing pollutants in the air.

The letter also says the blame ethanol receives for increased food prices is misguided. Waivers to the RFS, the governors stressed, will not reduce current food commodity prices. Additionally, the letter addresses the ability of the RFS to encourage the development of cellulosic materials into ethanol.

"The enactment of the new and tougher RFS is a great step toward domestic and sustainable sources of energy," according to Rounds, chair of the MGA. "We should emphasize ethanol's impact on reducing energy prices at a time when the price of oil continues to skyrocket."

The Midwestern Governors Association is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that brings together the governors of 12 states to work cooperatively on public policy issues of significance to the Midwestern region. In addition to Rounds and Granholm, the current members of the Midwestern Governors Association include: Gov. Rod Blagojevich (IL), Gov. Mitch Daniels (IN), Gov. Chet Culver (IA), Gov. Kathleen Sebelius (KS), Gov. Tim Pawlenty (MN), Gov. Matt Blunt (MO), Gov. Dave Heineman (NE), Gov. John Hoeven (ND), Gov. Ted Strickland (OH), and Gov. Jim Doyle (WI).

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