



Midwestern Governors Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Granholt Elected Chair of MGA, Focuses on Green Jobs

Washington, D.C. – Midwestern governors, convening this month in Washington, D.C., elected Michigan Gov. Jennifer M. Granholt to chair the Midwest Governors Association (MGA) effective today. Granholt's agenda as Chair, *Creating Jobs in the New Energy Economy*, will focus on attracting green jobs to the Midwest and implementing the proper workforce development tools that will make green jobs a sustainable industry for the future.

"The Midwest is well-positioned to be a national leader in the promotion of green technologies and green jobs," Granholt said. "Our region is looking to capitalize by creating jobs in a green, sustainable economy. I look forward to working with my fellow governors to ensure the Midwest's presence at the forefront of this transition."

Granholt's agenda will build on several key strengths of the region: a burgeoning biofuels industry; a manufacturing core that can produce renewable energy infrastructure such as wind turbines and solar panels; vast coal reserves that can be used in advanced coal power plants; and significant underground storage potential for carbon captured from factories and power plants. The Midwest also has thousands of skilled workers that are poised to begin manufacturing products for the green economy.

The agenda will be spearheaded by an advisory group comprised of regional economic development, investment and workforce leaders from the private and public sectors. The advisory group will draw on the workforce development efforts already under way in Midwest states. The group will also assess the skills and training needed to put people to work in the green economy, and develop specific recommendations for governors to consider that will help transition the region to meet new energy demands and put people back to work.

Granholt replaces South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds as chair. She will serve as MGA chair until February 2010. For more information about the MGA, visit www.midwesterngovernors.org.

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North Dakota

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Minnesota

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South Dakota

Kathleen Sebelius
Kansas

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