



Midwestern Governors Association

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***MGA Holds Briefing on Energy and Jobs Efforts,
Gov. Culver and Senators Nelson and Johanns Provide Remarks***

Washington, D.C. –The Midwestern Governors Association (MGA) held a briefing yesterday for congressional and agency staff on the MGA’s jobs and energy initiatives. As Congress and federal agencies continue their efforts to improve the nation’s energy security and climate stewardship, Midwestern governors are also working to create jobs that transition the Midwest into the new energy economy.

“I am proud of the work that my fellow Midwest governors are doing to position the Midwest to be a leader in the new energy economy,” Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, MGA chair, said. “Because states serve a key role in the development of energy policies, we have an obligation to make the federal government aware of the important and innovative work being done.”

Iowa Gov. Chet Culver provided remarks at the briefing. “I am proud of the advances that Iowa continues to make in alternative energy development. Iowa leads the nation in wind generation as a percentage of total power, at 20 percent—which is a substantial increase above the 5 percent figure when the Culver-Judge administration took office. More than 200 Iowa companies are now supplying the wind industry, generating more than \$50 million in new revenue for Iowa companies annually. The Midwest as a whole can take advantage of this growing industry and lead the way in generating renewable energy that creates jobs and benefits the environment.”

United States Senators Ben Nelson and Mike Johanns, both former chairs of the MGA, provided opening remarks at the briefing. “As a former governor who helped found the Governors Ethanol Coalition, I’m pleased to see Midwest governors playing a key role in developing our next generation of clean and renewable energy. The Midwest has a tremendous opportunity to further develop our renewable wind, solar and biofuels resources, creating good jobs in our communities and greater energy independence for our country,” said Senator Nelson.

“The Midwest has long been a leader in developing new energy technologies, and renewable energy provides a significant economic boost to the region,” Johanns said. “As a former Midwestern governor, I know that our region can build on this past success and play an even more important role in domestic energy production.”

The briefing included two panels comprised of leaders from state government, business groups and environmental associations involved in the advisory process. Over the past three years, Midwestern governors appointed a diverse group of stakeholders to formulate policy recommendations that the region could take to maximize its resources, human capital and entrepreneurial spirit.

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Over the past three years, Midwestern governors have been working to develop ambitious energy and jobs goals that build upon the region's vast natural resources and its workforce potential. Last October, the MGA released three documents related to its jobs and energy initiatives. Those documents can be viewed at: www.midwesterngovernors.org/publications.htm.