



Midwestern Governors Association

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Emily Marthaler  
(202) 624-5460  
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***MGA Joins Other Regional Governors Groups in Supporting the  
National Bioenergy Partnership***

Washington, D.C. - The Midwestern Governors Association (MGA) has joined with other regional governors' groups in requesting continued authorization for the National Bioenergy Partnership. The letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources emphasizes the 25-year track record of the program's efforts to get bioenergy projects off the ground and to help them succeed.

"The Midwest has tremendous resources and opportunities to lead the nation in the new energy economy, and bioenergy will be a key factor in our region's economic growth. The Midwest will be a key player in bioenergy development," said Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, MGA chair. "The National Bioenergy Partnership brings together the right partners with the expertise necessary for measurable success in new energy job creation, energy and environmental security."

Recent legislation passed by the House of Representatives included language providing authorization for the partnership. Senate passage of similar authorization language is the next step in continuing the ability of the partnership to meet its goals of promoting bioenergy growth.

"Midwestern governors are committed to working with other state and federal leaders to help make biomass and bioenergy a viable source of domestic energy," said Jesse Heier, with the MGA.

The partnership was originally created by Congress and the U.S. Department of Energy to build networks among federal agencies, state governments, the research community and the private sector for information sharing and to leverage resources.

Gov. Strickland, as MGA chair, signed the letter with Rhode Island Gov. Donald Carcieri, chair of the Coalition of Northeastern Governors; West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin, chair of the Southern States Energy Board; Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer, chair of the Western Governors Association; and Dr. Elson Floyd, president of Washington State Universities. Together, the National Bioenergy Partnership represents 50 states, two territories and the District of Columbia.

The enclosed fact sheet provides additional information on the National Bioenergy Partnership.

444 North Capitol Street, NW  
Suite 401  
Washington, DC 20001  
Tel: 202.624.5460  
Fax: 202.624.5452  
[www.midwesterngovernors.org](http://www.midwesterngovernors.org)

**Midwestern Office**  
701 East 22nd Street  
Suite 110  
Lombard, Illinois 60148  
Tel: 630.925.1922  
Fax: 630.925.1930

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