



Midwestern Governors Association

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MGA Applauds U.S. House of Representatives for Addressing Workforce Development Needs

Washington, D.C. – Last month, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act, or the SECTORS Act. The aim of the legislation is to promote industry growth and competitiveness, as well as to improve worker training, retention and advancement.

The Midwest Governors Association (MGA) applauds efforts that focus on identifying workforce development strategies. Through current MGA initiatives, Midwestern governors have agreed to principles aimed at strengthening the region's workforce and industries in order to be a leader in the new energy economy.

“Federal action on the SECTORS Act will support the ongoing work of the Midwestern governors to ensure that the region is an effective leader in the new energy economy,” said Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, MGA chair. “A well-skilled workforce is a critical component of these efforts and getting workers the training they need continues to be our commitment as we develop our strategy to transition into jobs of the future.”

As chair of the MGA, Strickland has focused his attention on increasing the availability of investment capital in the region and ensuring the region's workers have the necessary skills for advanced-energy jobs.

In October 2009, Midwestern governors released the *Platform for Creating and Retaining Midwestern Jobs in the New Energy Economy* (Jobs Platform). The Jobs Platform outlines regional goals and strategies for developing a well-trained, sustainable workforce. The document lays out six areas in which governors have committed to regional cooperation and collaboration to ensure sustained economic growth. These cooperative regional agreements include mapping the region's assets and resources; developing a plan for regional growth, investment and technology commercialization for new energy businesses and jobs; establishing regional training standards and portable credentials; and advancing regional sector initiatives to increase the economic competitiveness of regional firms and workers.

In addition to detailing overarching strategies for job creation and retention, the Jobs Platform also lays out technology-specific strategies for the four sectors that form the foundation of the Midwest's jobs and energy leadership efforts: energy efficiency, renewable electricity, the bioeconomy and advanced coal with carbon capture and storage.

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