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MGA Releases Updated Agenda for Investment Working Group Meeting

Washington, D.C. – The Midwestern Governors Association (MGA) released an updated agenda for its upcoming investment working group meeting in Columbus on Sept. 21-22. The meeting, *Invest in the Midwest: We Make the Things that Power the World*, will provide Midwestern policy leaders with an opportunity to discuss regional strategies aimed at increasing investment capital into the region. Registration for the meeting closes Sept. 14.

On the first day, the MGA’s investment working group and other attendees will hear from expert panelists and speakers who will assess the Midwest’s investment environment, current initiatives in the region to attract capital, and challenges and opportunities related to regional investment.

Doug Cameron, founder and managing director of Alberti Advisors, Allen Dines, president of the Midwest Regional University Network, and Jeannine La Prad, president and CEO of the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce, will serve as moderators for the panel discussions. Confirmed panelists include venture capitalists and angel investors, as well as representatives from traditional financial institutions, regional businesses, and government and non-profit leaders.

The second day will involve small-group breakout discussions, where participants will develop an investment strategy for the Midwest. Breakout sessions will include discussions on the importance of working as a region to attract investment, the need to harmonize state investment strategies, how to create a smart investment ecosystem, and ways to increase the odds for receiving project funding. The second day’s discussions will be invitation-only, though observers are welcome.

“Too often, crucial investment dollars are making their way to the coastal regions of the country, not the Midwest,” said Jesse Heier of the MGA. “The working group is meeting to develop investment strategies for Midwestern states to position the region as a leader in the new energy economy.”

These strategies will be included in an investment strategy document as a component of Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland’s agenda as current chair of the MGA. This agenda, *Midwestern Jobs: Training in Workers and Investing in Businesses for the New Energy Economy*, focuses on improving the investment climate in the Midwest.

For those planning to attend the meeting, the hotel room block closes on Sunday.

Visit www.midwesterngovernors.org/investsummit.htm for hotel information and the most recent agenda.

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