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September 19, 2012

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**MGA Highlights Midwestern Manufacturing Strengths -
*Releases First in Series of Regional Brochures***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Midwestern Governors Association (MGA) released today a brochure on manufacturing to highlight the industry’s key role in the region’s economy. The brochure, *America’s Smartland: Growing our Advanced Manufacturing*, is the first in a series of brochures the MGA will release that highlight the strengths of the region and underscore that the Midwest is a great place to live, work, raise a family, grow a business and get an education.

“The Midwest has long been the heart of our nation’s manufacturing industry. I am excited to share the region’s advanced manufacturing strengths with other regions as well as our international partners,” said Iowa Governor Terry E. Branstad, Chair of the MGA.

The manufacturing sector has played a significant role in the growth of the Midwest, and the region continues to be a national leader in the industry, outpacing other regions in manufacturing’s share of gross domestic product (GDP). Manufacturing employs more people on average in MGA states than the national average. The MGA region also is a leader in different manufacturing subsectors, including 62 percent of the nation’s total GDP in the motor vehicle, body, trailer and parts category. With a strong legacy, skilled workforce and a competitive advantage of low-cost energy, the region is also well-positioned for future growth in advanced manufacturing.

These brochures are part of Governor Branstad’s efforts as MGA Chair to promote a positive Midwestern narrative. In addition to manufacturing, the series will include brochures on the bioeconomy, low-cost energy, standard of living and transportation/infrastructure.

The next two brochures, low-cost energy and the bioeconomy, will be released at the MGA’s upcoming 50th anniversary meeting taking place September 26 in Des Moines. This meeting, *America’s Smartland – Deploying the Midwest’s Entrepreneurial Spirit*, will celebrate the collective strengths of the region and address how the Midwest can better share these strengths with other regions and countries. Governor Branstad is expected to be joined by Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton, Kansas Governor Sam Brownback, former Illinois Governor James Thompson and former Missouri Governor Bob Holden.

The brochure is available at www.midwesterngovernors.org/publications/manufacturing.pdf.

To register for the meeting, or for more information, visit www.midwesterngovernors.org/AmericasSmartland.htm.

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The MGA is a nonprofit, bipartisan organization that brings together the governors of Midwestern states to work cooperatively on issues of importance to the region. Current members of the MGA are Gov. Pat Quinn (Ill.), Gov. Mitch Daniels (Ind.), Gov. Terry Branstad (Iowa), Gov. Sam Brownback (Kansas), Gov. Rick Snyder (Mich.), Gov. Mark Dayton (Minn.), Gov. Jay Nixon (Mo.), Gov. John Kasich (Ohio) and Gov. Scott Walker (Wis.).