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Gov. Quinn Concludes Leadership of Midwestern Governors Association

Washington, D.C. - Over the past year, the Midwestern Governors Association (MGA) has built upon its prior energy, jobs and investment efforts through Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn's agenda as the 2011 MGA Chair. Since announcing his agenda, *Advancing the Midwest's New Energy Economy Through Investment, Innovation and International Trade*, the governor and his staff have led efforts to capitalize on the region's strategic advantages in energy, manufacturing and the bioeconomy.

"I have been honored to serve as Chair of the Midwestern Governors Association this past year. The Midwest has the tremendous natural resources and human talent to create innovative solutions and be a global leader. Working with my fellow governors, we have continued this association's strong legacy of fostering economic development and partnerships," Gov. Quinn said. "While all states continue to face an uncertain economic environment, by working together, we can capitalize on the advantages of our Midwestern region."

Bringing together Midwestern leaders from the private and public sectors, the MGA forged a strong foundation of regional strategies, solutions and relationships to ensure the Midwest continues sustained economic growth and leadership in the energy economy. This past year the MGA brought together regional policy leaders from state government, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector at several events.

In June, the MGA convened a group of stakeholders to encourage state, private and public cooperation and collaboration in policy and economic development in regional energy industries. The meeting, *Advancing the Energy Economy in the Midwest: Sustained Coordination and Implementation*, resulted in bridging an information and communication gap that is prevalent across state boundaries.

Meeting in Des Moines in September, the MGA highlighted the region's successes in working together on transmission planning and development. State regulatory issues, long-term transmission goals and steps to strengthen economic development were among the topics at *Transmission Collaboration: Midwestern Current and Future Success*.

Also in September, the MGA organized *Building Economic and Energy Security in the Heartland: A Midwestern Delegation to the Gulf Coast to Explore Development of the Enhanced Oil Recovery*

Industry. The program of events for this delegation helped participants understand the economic development and job creation opportunities of enhanced oil recovery in the Midwest.

To promote further innovation in the region, the MGA:

- convened a working group of industry and state leaders to work on strategies states could consider to ensure Midwestern biofuels remain competitive with other sources of energy;
- commissioned a report on the economic viability of enhanced oil recovery in the Midwest
- released a series of stories highlighting what Midwestern companies are doing to be more industrial energy efficient; and
- commissioned a report on the economic benefits of industrial energy productivity.

On Sunday, Gov. Quinn will turn over the Chair's gavel to Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad. This transition will take place at the MGA's Winter Meeting on February 26.

For more information on Gov. Quinn's agenda and relevant reports, visit www.midwesterngovernors.org/chairagenda2011.htm.

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.).