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**MGA Hosts Meeting on a Low-Cost and Reliable Electricity Grid -
*Releases Second Regional Brochure on Energy***

ST. PAUL, MINN. – The Midwest Governors Association (MGA) co-hosted a meeting October 9th and 10th that addressed the economic and transmission benefits of a low-cost and reliable electricity grid. This meeting provided a forum for cross-state discussions with governors’ staff, utility commissioners and transmission advocates.

The Midwest has made steady progress in planning for the electric transmission needs of the future. Midwestern governors have been actively engaged in this process to ensure collaboration and progress among the many regional stakeholders. The MGA organized this educational meeting to highlight economic and reliability opportunities, regional accomplishments, benefits of cross-state collaborative efforts, upcoming transmission challenges and ways to leverage Midwestern energy opportunities and assets.

Iowa Gov. Terry E. Branstad, MGA Chair, said, “The Midwest has tremendous potential to provide low-cost energy to the entire country. Transmission provides the important link to export low-cost electricity nationwide which can help improve our nation’s overall economic competitiveness.”

Jesse Heier, executive director of the MGA, said, “Transmission planning serves as a great example of how Midwestern governors are working together across state borders to meet the economic needs of the region.”

At the meeting, the MGA released *America’s Smartland: Powered by Abundant Energy*, the second in a series of regional brochures. The brochure highlights the region’s abundant energy resources in natural gas, wind, coal, biofuels, as well as potential for combined heat and power.

The brochure is available at www.midwesterngovernors.org/publications.htm

Co-hosting the meeting with the MGA was the Minnesota Governor’s Office, the Organization of MISO States and the U.S. Department of Energy’s Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

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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.).