



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 10, 2012

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**Submission Period Open for  
'America's Smartland: Let the Midwest Surprise You' Video Contest**  
*Governors to Take Part in 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting*

**CHICAGO** –The submission period opens today for the Midwest Governors Association (MGA)'s video contest, *America's Smartland: Let the Midwest Surprise You*. The contest is designed to draw attention to the unique qualities of the Midwestern region and all it has to offer – a strong work ethic and climate for business and job growth; high-quality schools and colleges; a stand-out standard of living, including vibrant cities and towns, affordable housing, cultural, recreational and sporting activities; four distinct seasons; and breathtaking natural wonders. Over \$10,000 in prize money will be awarded to the winning entries, including a \$2,500 grand prize.

To enter, develop a brief video (up to three minutes) that features your perspective on what makes the Midwest so great. Participants must be residents of a MGA member state - Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin.

For more information on the contest, please visit  
[www.midwesterngovernors.org/americassmartland.htm](http://www.midwesterngovernors.org/americassmartland.htm).

Video submissions will be accepted through October 15, 2012. The grand prize winner will receive \$2,500 and have his or her entry featured at upcoming events and activities highlighting the Midwest. In addition, one entry from each MGA member state will be identified through a public voting period that closes December 2 and recognized with a \$1,000 "people's choice" award.

The video contest is part of the MGA's celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as well as the focus of Iowa Governor Terry Branstad's agenda as the current Chair of the MGA to promote a positive Midwestern narrative. In addition to the contest, the MGA will be holding a meeting on September 26 in Des Moines to 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 and former Missouri Governor Bob Holden.

More information on the meeting is available at the above link.

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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.).*