



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Voting Underway for the ‘America’s Smartland: Let the Midwest Surprise You’  
Video Contest**

*Public Voting Open through December 3<sup>rd</sup>*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** The Midwestern Governors Association (MGA) announced today that public voting is underway for the “America’s Smartland: Let the Midwest Surprise You!” video contest.

The video contest, launched in May, features submissions by Midwesterners that tell the Midwest’s unique story. The goal of the video contest is to draw attention to the collective strengths 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.

The voting period runs until December 3<sup>rd</sup>, with winners announced at the MGA’s winter meeting in February 2013. [Click here to vote.](#)

The winning entry will be promoted by the MGA and featured at upcoming events and other activities designed to highlight the region.

The video contest is a part of Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad’s agenda as MGA’s 2012 Chair to renew the Midwestern narrative.

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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.).*