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Minnesota Governor Dayton Elected Chair of the MGA
Focuses Agenda on Coordinating State Response to Invasive Species

Washington, D.C. – Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton was elected Chair of the Midwest Governors Association (MGA) today during its annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Governor Dayton is replacing Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, who served as Chair in 2012 during the MGA’s 50th anniversary year.

Dayton’s agenda for 2013 will focus on coordinating state responses to invasive species. While the Chair’s agenda provides the opportunity to highlight all regional efforts to address both land and aquatic invasive species, the primary focus of the agenda will be Asian carp and zebra mussels.

To help carry out this initiative, Midwest governors will work together to identify opportunities and barriers, and will create cross-state strategies to achieve these goals. The MGA also plans to hold a meeting of governors’ policy advisors, state natural resources and agriculture secretaries, federal agencies, and experts from academia.

“I am honored to have been chosen by my fellow governors to be Chair of the Midwest Governors Association. I look forward to working with them to further strengthen our region and address invasive species, which are a significant threat to our region’s ecosystem, way of life and economic stability. I also want to thank Governor Branstad for his tremendous leadership and work to renew the Midwest brand over the past year,” said Dayton.

In addition to focusing on regional coordination efforts on invasive species, Dayton plans to continue the efforts initiated under Branstad’s 2012 agenda to increase the production of low-cost energy by highlighting regional industrial energy efficiency opportunities, strategies for increasing alternative vehicle fueling stations and opportunities for better regional transmission.

Also at the meeting, Branstad provided a recap of his agenda, which can be viewed at www.midwesterngovernors.org/chairagenda2012.htm. Governors also heard from U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Jerrod Roberts, winner of the MGA’s video contest, *America’s Smartland: Let the Midwest Surprise You!*

Dayton will serve as Chair of the MGA until February 2014.

More information and updates on Dayton’s agenda are available by visiting www.midwesterngovernors.org/chairagenda.htm.

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The MGA is a nonprofit, bipartisan organization that brings together the governors of Midwest states to work cooperatively on issues of importance to the region. Current members of the MGA are Gov. Pat Quinn (Ill.), Gov. Mike Pence (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.).