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MGA Highlights Region's Competitive Advantage in Renewable Energy

Kansas City, Mo. – The Midwestern Governors Association (MGA) recently met in Kansas City to examine ways the energy grid can help the Midwest utilize its competitive advantage in renewable energy to attract companies, jobs and economic development to the region. The meeting, *Electrifying the Economy: Utilizing the Grid to Strengthen the Midwest's Competitive Advantage*, took place October 30 – 31 and provided a forum for cross-state collaboration. Attendees included governors' staff, state utility commissioners, utilities and other industry stakeholders.

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback kicked off the meeting with a conversation about the Midwest's dynamic energy resources and how the region can better promote itself for economic development.

"The Midwest has a significant global advantage through its amount of renewable energy potential. We need to better promote this competitive advantage to companies and businesses that are actively looking to integrate sustainable energy practices into their operations. Leveraging this strength can further increase jobs and economic development in our region," said Governor Brownback.

Representatives from Google and IKEA discussed their efforts to integrate sustainable energy practices into their business plans and were joined by officials from the U.S. Department of Energy and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, who provided insight into how the region can better cooperate and collaborate with the federal government.

This was the third annual meeting the MGA hosted to highlight the steady progress in planning for the electric transmission needs of the future.

Jesse Heier, executive director of the MGA, said, "Electric transmission planning serves as a great example of how the Midwestern governors are working together across state borders to strengthen the regional economy. This meeting highlighted the direct benefits of ensuring that a reliable electric grid utilizes the region's renewable energy strengths."

More information on the MGA's regional transmission efforts is available at www.midwesterngovernors.org/transmission.htm.

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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. 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.). View the MGA's America's Smartland video by visiting <http://www.midwesterngovernors.org/AmericasSmartland.htm>.