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North Central Iowa Alliance

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEADERS TO PROMOTE IOWA AT WORLD'S LARGEST WIND ENERGY INDUSTRY EVENT

NORTH CENTRAL IOWA— The North Central Iowa Alliance will be among the economic development leaders heading to Chicago as part of a team led by Governor Chet Culver. The group is set to participate in the annual American Wind Energy Association's WINDPOWER 2009 Conference & Exhibition in Chicago.

WINDPOWER 2009 (www.windpowerexpo.org) is being held from May 4-7, 2009. More than 15,000 wind industry leaders, government officials, and business executives; and over 1,200 exhibitors, including wind power plant developers, turbine manufacturers, and the full range of supply chain manufacturers and service providers, will convene at Chicago's McCormick Place Convention Center for the world's largest annual wind energy industry event.

Alliance President Karen Mitchell said of the trip "This will be a great opportunity to promote not only the state but our region as an ideal place for wind industry companies to locate given our significant transportation assets, wind turbine concentration, available workforce, buildings, land and incentives." Attending on behalf of the region in addition to Mitchell will be Beth Bilyeu, Angela Determan and Gregg Gillman.

The North Central Iowa Alliance is a consortium of county-level economic development agencies that market and promote the area for business development. The seven counties are Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Mitchell, Winnebago and Worth.

Iowa is number one in the nation in wind generation as percentage of total generation, with over 7% of its total electricity generated by wind power facilities. In addition with 2,883 MW installed, Iowa recently surpassed California (2,517 MW) for the No. 2 position in wind power generating capacity. The state's strong manufacturing base, excellent transportation infrastructure and skilled workforce have made it attractive to manufacturers. In addition, Governor Culver's signature \$100 million renewable energy program -- the Iowa Power Fund -- and the new Office of Energy Independence promote the state's burgeoning wind industry and provide grants to companies and researchers in Iowa who are fostering renewable energy within the state.

For more information on Iowa's wind energy industry, please visit www.iowalifechanging.com

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