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Governors Give Industrial Energy Efficiency a Boost

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BOISE, IDAHO -- A two-day "Summit on Industrial Energy Efficiency" that wrapped up on Thursday will result in the development of a number of recommendations for Western governors to consider in an effort to save energy and reduce costs.

Gov. C. L. "Butch" Otter (Idaho), Chairman of the Western Governors' Association, addressed the summit attendees on Wednesday. He noted that industry consumes approximately 28 percent of the West's total energy use, which is why incremental improvements in efficiency can have a large impact on reducing the region's overall energy consumption.

"Energy efficiency is the low hanging fruit in our energy orchard and we need to aggressively pursue all reasonable cost-effective opportunities," Otter said. "By aggressively pursuing energy efficiency we free up capacity on our transmission system and make more energy available to help businesses expand."

Otter said many states have programs that already have assisted industry in reducing energy use by 2 to 3 percent a year, resulting in a 10 to 15 percent savings over more than five years.

"We need to better understand which policies spur greater investments in energy efficiency, as well as those that may hinder progress," he said.

Summit attendees participated in breakout sessions to develop recommendations for the governors to consider when they meet this June in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho for their [Annual Meeting](#).

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About the WGA: The Western Governors' Association is an independent, nonprofit organization representing the governors of 19 states and three US-Flag Pacific Islands. Through their Association, the governors identify and address key policy and governance issues, including those related to natural resources, the environment, human services, economic development, intergovernmental relations and international relations.