Gov. Doug Burgum met Thursday with President Trump, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and other governors and congressional leaders at the White House to discuss trade and agricultural issues. Burgum emphasized the importance of trade and a strong farm bill for North Dakota producers, especially coming off a year with historic drought that brought significant hardship to farmers and ranchers. He also expressed appreciation for the President's willingness to work on a path forward for the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and to reconsider joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership to open export markets for U.S. producers. Burgum was one of three governors in the meeting, joining Gov. Kim Reynolds of Iowa and Gov. Pete Ricketts of Nebraska.
Gov. Burgum and First Lady Kathryn Helgaas-Burgum gave opening remarks at a Day for Prevention in Bismarck. More than 500 people attended the event, a first-of-its-kind for North Dakota that brought together national, regional and state experts to discuss public policies, strategies and resources that work to prevent substance abuse. Day for Prevention followed the first Recovery Reinvented, an event aimed at eliminating the shame and stigma of addiction, held last September.

Lt. Gov. Brent Sanford also spoke at A Day for Prevention, sharing his experience of prevention efforts in Watford City while serving as mayor there during the state’s oil boom. Several initiatives were announced during the day, including the Innovative Recovery Challenge and more.

For those who missed the event, the recording of A Day for Prevention and any resources shared during the day will be available here and on Youtube.
PRUITT APPROVES ND PRIMACY OVER CARBON STORAGE

In a call Tuesday with EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, Gov. Burgum and Oil and Gas Division’s Kevin Connors were among the first to learn that North Dakota is the first state to receive final EPA approval for primary regulatory authority, or primacy, over underground storage of carbon dioxide. The long-awaited approval provides regulatory certainty and a path forward for the long-term viability of the state’s lignite and energy generation industries.

BUDGETING PROCESS CONTINUES

Gov. Burgum, Lt. Governor Sanford and Cabinet leaders are continuing preparations for the upcoming 2019-2021 budget cycle. Gov. Burgum met Friday with Office of Management and Budget Director Joe Morrissette in preparation for the release of budget guidelines next week. Creating a leaner, more efficient state government is a part of the administration’s commitment to reinventing government.