Gov. Doug Burgum met with Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke in Washington, D.C., discussing a number of issues of importance to North Dakota. The two discussed several topics within Zinke’s oversight, including water and minerals management, tribal affairs and national parks. Zinke – a former U.S. congressman from Montana before being appointed to lead the Department of the Interior – has been invited to North Dakota next month for the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference.
First Lady Kathryn Helgaas Burgum was honored Wednesday by the Addiction Policy Forum with its Pillar of Excellence award for her advocacy work with addiction and recovery. The Washington, D.C.-based Addiction Policy Forum is a nonprofit dedicated to raising awareness around addiction and improving national policy through a comprehensive response that includes prevention, treatment, recovery and criminal justice reform.

STATEWIDE HOUSING CONFERENCE HOSTS LT. GOVERNOR
The North Dakota Housing Finance Agency held its 23rd annual State Housing Conference on Wednesday. Lt. Gov. Sanford addressed attendees, sharing the important role affordable housing plays in creating healthy, vibrant communities. The Main Street Initiative, one of the administration's five strategic initiatives, focuses on building strong communities across the state to attract and retain a 21st century workforce.
LT. GOVERNOR PROVIDES INSIGHT AT GAS CAPTURE MEETING

Lt. Gov. Brent Sanford took part in a meeting Wednesday at United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck with officials from two federal agencies – the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management – along with tribal leaders including Chairman Mark Fox from the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation; representatives of the oil and gas industry; and North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission Executive Director Scott Davis, who facilitated the meeting. Participants discussed the need to streamline right-of-way acquisition for pipelines and gas capture infrastructure on federal lands, which could help further reduce flaring while benefiting the tribes and other mineral owners through increased royalty payments on natural gas.

GOVERNOR HIGHLIGHTS JOB CREATION WITH FM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.

North Dakota must continue to grow and diversify its economy to remain competitive in a 21st century world. That was the message delivered by Gov. Burgum Tuesday at the Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corp.'s annual meeting. The remarks followed an announcement by Fargo Automation that its parent company, Korber, is moving its North American headquarters to Fargo.