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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Bruning to Meet with Secretary Ridge and Other Top Government Officials

For Immediate Release:
March 19, 2003

Contact: Holley Bolen
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WASHINGTON D.C. - Today Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning will meet with Tom Ridge, Secretary of Homeland Security, and officials at the White House to discuss homeland security issues.

“It’s important that Nebraskans have the best information available during this critical time. I’m grateful that Secretary Ridge is able to take the time to bring us up to speed on these important issues facing our nation,” Bruning said.

Yesterday Bruning met with U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft at the U.S. Department of Justice to discuss homeland security. Bruning, along with other Attorneys General from across the nation, also met with Robert Mueller, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“Meeting with Robert Mueller and John Ashcroft was an incredible opportunity to get the most recent information about the state of homeland security issues,” said Bruning.

The meetings are part of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) spring meeting. The NAAG meeting is held to bring Attorneys General from across the country together to discuss issues concerning individual states and the nation.



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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Bruning Creates Agriculture Section

For Immediate Release
March 10, 2003

Contact: Holley Bolen
Phone: 402-471-3888

LINCOLN, NE—Today Attorney General Jon Bruning announced a restructuring of the Office of the Attorney General, including a newly created Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources Section.

“Agriculture is the backbone of our state. We must devote adequate resources to protect and defend Nebraska’s rights,” said Bruning. “Nebraskans have learned the hard way the enormous impact these issues can have on the economy and I’m committed to offering better service to protect our interests.”

The new section will be managed by Assistant Attorney General David Cookson. Cookson was instrumental in Nebraska’s success in the Republican River Suit. He also has extensive knowledge and experience with the Missouri River Suit.

“Mr. Cookson represents the best of the best in terms of Nebraska lawyers. I’m thrilled to have someone of his caliber heading up the Agriculture Section,” said Bruning.



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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 4, 2003

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ATTORNEY GENERAL BRUNING CALLS
AMBER COMMITTEE MEETING

Lincoln, Neb.—Attorney General Jon Bruning will meet tomorrow with Nebraska’s AMBER Alert Committee. The meeting is being held to introduce the attorney general to the committee and to evaluate the effectiveness of the AMBER system.

The committee has on its agenda a discussion of the events surrounding the murder of Gering resident Heather Guerrero. “Typically, after an AMBER Alert is issued, the committee meets to discuss the effectiveness of the AMBER process. In light of this tragedy, I thought it best to take a look at process and the criteria, in order to determine if any changes need to be made,” said Bruning.

The Guerrero family will meet privately with Bruning tomorrow morning and will address the AMBER committee.

“Maintaining an effective AMBER system is one of my highest priorities. I want to ensure the best possible process for protecting Nebraskans,” said Bruning.

The criteria for issuing an AMBER alert are as follows:

- The child is 15 years old, or younger.
- Police have reason to believe the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death.
- There is sufficient information available concerning the suspected abductor that the public can respond.
- The notifying law enforcement agency has participated in AMBER training for purposes of issuing AMBER Alerts.

A press conference to discuss the meeting will be held tomorrow at 11:30 a.m., in the Attorney General’s Office (room 2115 in the State Capitol building).