

Introduction, Mark Ritchie

Mark Ritchie was elected [Minnesota Secretary of State](#) in 2006 and re-elected in 2010. In 2011, he became president of the [National Association of Secretaries of State](#),

He co-chaired the Minnesota USA Expo Bid Committee, serves as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for Minnesota, and he was President of Global Minnesota.

From 1986 until 2006, Secretary Ritchie served as the president of the Minneapolis-based [Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy](#), a non-profit organization working with businesses, farm organizations, and faith and civic groups to foster long-term sustainability for Minnesota's rural communities. He also founded the [League of Rural Voters](#).

In 1994, he was a co-founder of the Global Environment & Trade Study, which conducted research on the linkages and potential synergies between international trade and the environment.

Today he'll speak with us about the link between climate issues and food security.