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PRESS ADVISORY

DATE: April 1, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REAP Announces Kansas Affordable Airfares Program Request for Proposals for Fiscal Year 2012

The Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) today announced the release of a request for proposals for the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program for fiscal year 2012 (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012).

"Affordable airfares represent an issue of concern to all Kansans, particularly those involved in economic development, and by following the guidelines provided by the State of Kansas, REAP will ensure that Kansas businesses can compete globally, families can enjoy the opportunity for affordable leisure travel, and the State can benefit from increased tourism through available, competitive, and affordable air travel to all Kansans" stated REAP chair, Mayor Kristey Williams of Augusta.

Under the authority of House Substitute for Senate Bill 475 and the omnibus appropriation bill, Senate Bill 2968, both enacted in the 2006 session of the Kansas Legislature, REAP is assigned authority for administering the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program.

"In administering the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program, REAP wants to assure that the program is carried out in line with the intentions of the Kansas Legislature" said Joe Yager, REAP Chief Executive Officer.

REAP established a selection process and selection criteria for administering the Program that include more air flight options, more competition for air travel, and affordable air fares for Kansas. In making awards, REAP will give highest priority to maintaining affordable airfares to eastern and western U.S. destinations. Priority will also be given to proposals that impact a majority of Kansans.

Proposals will be accepted through June 17, 2011, and the selection of a successful proposal(s) will be July 11, 2011.

REAP is a council of local governments comprised of thirty-seven cities and counties in South Central Kansas. These local governments have voluntarily joined together to guide state and national actions that affect economic development in the region and to adopt joint actions among member governments that enhance the regional economy. To learn more about REAP, go to www.reap-ks.org or contact Joe Yager at 316-978-6542 (joe.yager@wichita.edu).