



Regional Economic Area Partnership

Legislative Agenda 2011

Regional Priorities

Maintain Kansas Affordable Airfares Program to assure more flight options, more competition for air travel, and affordable airfares for Kansas.

Advance legislative and administrative action to secure state financial participation in:

- The Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project to preserve the aquifer for agricultural, industrial, and municipal use that is essential to the regional economy.
- Aviation research at the National Institute for Aviation Research at Wichita State University.
- Orthopedic research at the Center of Innovation for Bio Orthopedic Research (CIBOR) at Wichita State University.
- Business-driven technical education and training that supports the regional economy.

Support a reevaluation of current state water policy including Kansas Water Authority representation; revenue sources and distribution for the state water plan fund; and, the process for adopting the annual state water plan fund budget.

Support a stronger system of technical training and education in Kansas including enhanced funding support, better alignment and articulation of education and training programs, and transition programs to better serve adult learners.

Support federal reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to include maintaining local control through private sector and employer driven **Local Workforce Investment Boards**.

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Regional Economic Area Partnership

Strengthening the economy of South Central Kansas through joint action of cities and counties

The Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) is a council of governments comprised of thirty-seven cities and counties in South Central Kansas, which includes Butler, Cowley, Harper, Harvey, Kingman, McPherson, Reno, Sedgwick, and Sumner counties. These local governments have voluntarily joined together in REAP 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.

More than 730,000 Kansans reside in the communities that make up the membership of REAP. As a whole the REAP region comprises:

- More than 416,123 registered voters;
- Civilian labor force of 400,183, representing one-fourth of total employment in Kansas;
- Annual personal income in excess of \$26 billion;
- Over one-fourth of the population of Kansas;
- Over one-fourth of all employment and personal income in Kansas;
- Over two-fifths of all manufacturing employment in Kansas; and
- Retail sales in excess of \$9 billion, accounting for one-fourth of total sales in Kansas.

Andover • Arkansas City • Augusta • Bel Aire • Bentley • Benton • Butler County • Cheney • Clearwater • Colwich • Conway Springs • Derby • El Dorado • Garden Plain • Goddard • Halstead • Harvey County • Haysville • Hesston • Hutchinson • Kechi • Kingman County • Maize • McPherson County • Mount Hope • Mulvane • Newton • Park City • Reno County • Rose Hill • Sedgwick • Sedgwick County • Sumner County • Valley Center • Wellington • Wichita

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