



## Regional Economic Area Partnership Legislative Agenda 2012

### 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.
- Sediment and nutrient reduction programs that protect and sustain the region's public water supplies.
- 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).

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.

Promote science-based, common sense policies that protect the safety of the region's water supply; recognizing that the region's job creation potential should not be unnecessarily jeopardized.

Support research and development efforts regarding renewable energy sources.

Support a stronger system of business-driven 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

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*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-six cities and counties in South Central Kansas, which includes Butler, 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 390,822, 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.

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Andover • 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 • 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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