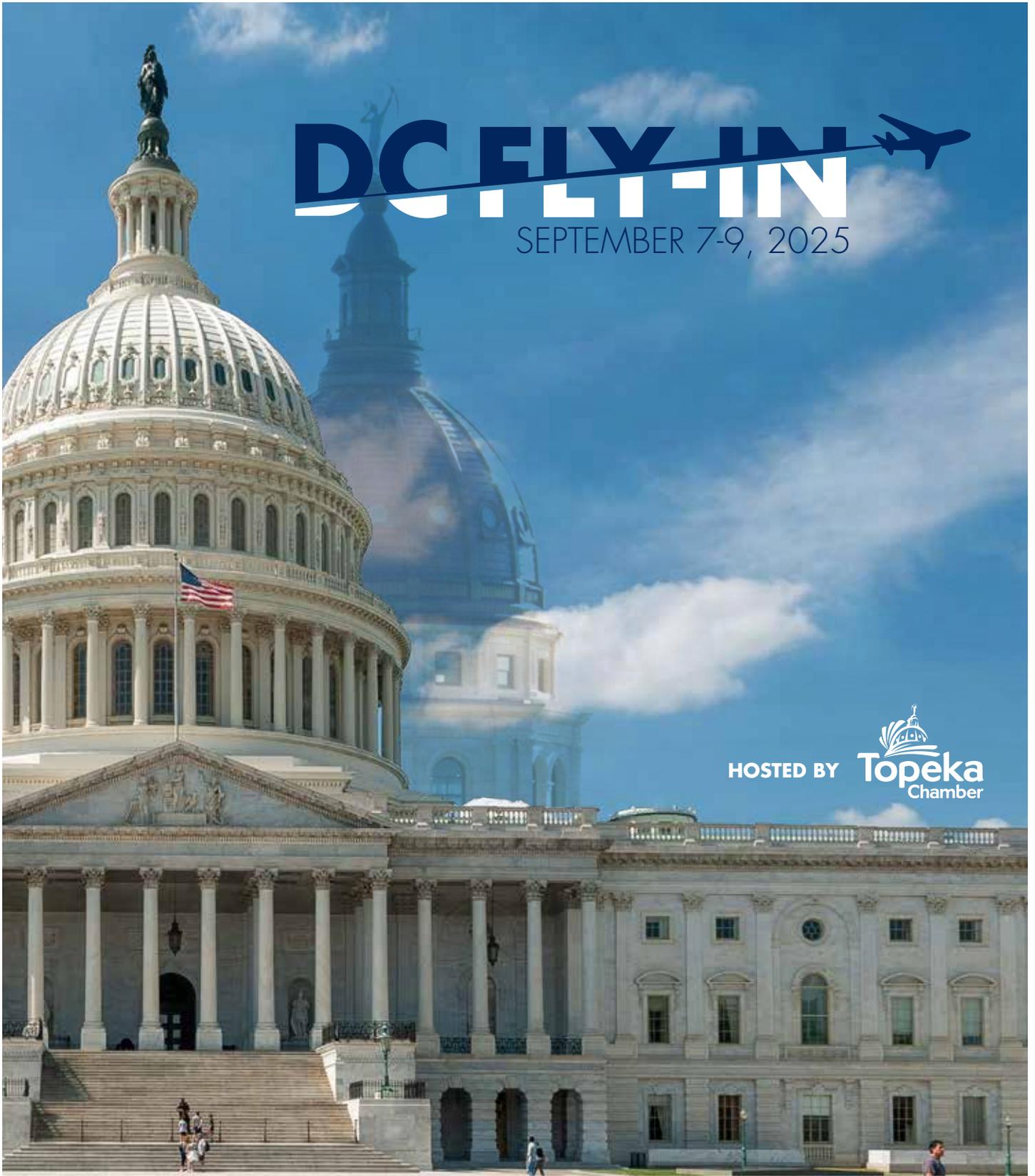




DC FLY-IN

SEPTEMBER 7-9, 2025

HOSTED BY  **Topeka**
Chamber



POWER IN ADVOCACY

WELCOME TO THE 2025 GREATER TOPEKA CHAMBER DC FLY-IN

On behalf of the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, welcome to the 2025 DC Fly-In, taking place September 7–9. We are thrilled to have you join us in our nation's capital as we work together to elevate Topeka's voice in Washington. This year's event is proudly sponsored by Bartlett & West, InTrust Bank, and Schwerdt Design Group (SDG) — we thank them for their steadfast support of our community and advocacy efforts.

The DC Fly-In is a powerful opportunity to champion our region's most important federal priorities. Through a mix of Hill meetings, agency briefings, and social engagements, we will work to build momentum around projects and policies that fuel Topeka's continued growth. From workforce and innovation to infrastructure and riverfront redevelopment, we are here to ensure Topeka remains competitive and future-focused.

Your presence on this trip is critical. As business and civic leaders, your stories, insights, and advocacy provide the necessary context and passion behind the policies we are pushing forward. Together, we can help shape a more prosperous future for Topeka and Shawnee County. Let's get to work!



U.S. Chamber of Commerce



2025 DC FLY-IN ITINERARY

Washington, D.C. | September 7–9, 2025

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

- 3:00 PM Hotel check-in at Hotel W
- 4:30 PM Welcome Briefing at VUE Rooftop Bar (Hotel W)
- 6:00 PM Group Dinner at Old Ebbitt Grill

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

- 8:00 AM Breakfast (Hotel W)
- 9:00 AM U.S. Chamber of Commerce Briefings (Hotel W)
 - TIM MONAHAN, VP of Government Affairs – Federal Update
 - MACKENZIE MORALES, Director of Global Energy Institute – Permitting & Regulation
 - JOHN G. MURPHY, SVP of International Affairs – Tariffs & Trade
- 10:30 AM BREAK
- 11:00 AM Depart For Lunch
- 11:15 AM Group Photo in front of the White House
- 11:30 AM Lunch, Grilled Cheese Bar, 1730 Pennsylvania Ave

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

AVIATION BREAKOUT:

- 1:00 PM National Defense Industry Association with John Muller, SVP
2101 Wilson Blvd #700, Arlington, VA
- 2:00 PM BREAK

- 3:00 PM Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) with Jason Sweat, project manager.
2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 520 Arlington, VA

INNOVATION BREAKOUT:

- 1:30 PM U.S. Economic Development Agency with Acting Assistant Secretary Page
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC

FINANCIAL SERVICES BREAKOUT:

- 1:30 PM Office of Rep. French Hill, Chairman, House Financial Services Committee
200 C St SW, Washington, DC, STE 3320 O'Neill Office Building

CONGRESSIONAL MEETING:

- 5:00 PM Meeting with Rep. Tracey Mann
344 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC

EVENING PROGRAMMING:

- 6:00 PM Dinner at Hawk N' Dove – Capitol Hill
329 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, DC
- 9:00 PM Private U.S. Capitol Tour with Rep. Derek Schmidt

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- 8:15 AM Check Luggage in Lobby at Front Desk for Afternoon Departure
- 9:00 AM Meeting at U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce with Anthony Hinojosa, VP of Government Affairs
750 17th St NW Suite 825, Washington, DC

CONGRESSIONAL MEETING:

- 11:00 AM Meeting with Sen. Jerry Moran
Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 521 Washington, DC

- 12:00 PM Meeting with Sen. Roger Marshall
Russell Senate Office Building Suite 479A 2 Constitution Ave NE, Washington, DC

- 1:00 PM Lunch, District Taco, 1309 F St NW, Washington, DC

DEPARTURE:

- 1:45 PM Return to Hotel W for luggage pickup
- 2:00 PM Depart for Regan National Airport



ELECTED OFFICIALS





REPRESENTATIVE (KS-1) **TRACEY MANN**

Tracey Robert Mann (b. December 17, 1976), a fifth-generation Kansan from Quinter, represents Kansas's expansive 1st Congressional District—the "Big First"—in the U.S. House since January 2021. A graduate of Kansas State University with a B.S. in Agricultural Economics, Mann previously served as lieutenant governor of Kansas under Governor Jeff Colyer (2018–2019). Before holding public office, he worked in commercial real estate and served on boards including Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership and the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. In Congress, he chairs the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry and serves on committees focused on agriculture, veterans affairs, and rural development. Mann brings a lifelong connection to farming and rural values to his work in Washington.



REPRESENTATIVE (KS-2) **DEREK SCHMIDT**

Derek Larkin Schmidt, born January 23, 1968 in Independence, Kansas, serves as the U.S. Representative for Kansas's 2nd Congressional District, beginning his term on January 3, 2025. A graduate of the University of Kansas (B.A.), the University of Leicester in England (M.A.), and Georgetown University Law Center (J.D.), Schmidt brings a rich legal and policy background to Congress. Before his election, he served as Kansas Attorney General from 2011 to 2023, and previously held the role of Senate Majority Leader in the Kansas State Senate from 2005 to 2011. Prior to that, he represented the 15th District in the Kansas Senate starting in 2001. Schmidt also worked as legislative counsel to Senator Nancy Kassebaum and as an assistant attorney general. A Republican, he ran for governor in 2022 but narrowly lost the race. In Congress, he has pledged to tackle inflation, prioritize border security, and resist federal overreach while championing Kansans' priorities.



SENATOR **JERRY MORAN**

Jerry Moran, born May 29, 1954 in Great Bend, Kansas, has served in the U.S. Senate since 2011 and in the House before that from 1997 to 2011. Raised in Plainville, he earned a B.S. in Economics from the University of Kansas and later a J.D. from KU's law school. Prior to Congress, Moran practiced law, taught political science at Fort Hays State University, and held roles in county and state attorneys' offices, as well as in the Kansas Senate, where he served as Majority Leader. A senior figure in the Kansas delegation, Senator Moran is active on multiple Senate committees including Commerce, Agriculture Appropriations, Banking, Veterans Affairs, and Commerce-Science-Transportation. He champions fiscal responsibility, rural economies, infrastructure, public health innovation, and veteran support.



SENATOR **ROGER MARSHALL**

Roger Wayne Marshall, M.D., born August 9, 1960 in El Dorado, Kansas, brings both medical and small-town roots to the U.S. Senate, where he has served since 2021. The son of Kansas farm country, he attended Butler Community College, earned a B.S. in Biochemistry from Kansas State University, and received his medical degree from the University of Kansas. A former OB/GYN physician in Great Bend, he built a medical practice that served hundreds and employed more than 300 staff. He also held leadership roles in banking and Rotary International, and served in the Army Reserve for seven years. Marshall previously represented Kansas's 1st Congressional District from 2017 to 2021 before moving to the Senate. His perspective blends rural healthcare, small business management, and military service.

INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP: BUILDING TOPEKA'S FUTURE

Topeka is poised for a new era of innovation and entrepreneurial growth, and at the center of this momentum is Link Innovation Labs, a **\$15 million, 18,000-square-foot hub set to open in January 2026**. Developed by GO Topeka, this space is designed to accelerate startups from concept to commercialization, providing the infrastructure, partnerships, and resources needed to compete on a global scale.

WHAT MAKES LINK INNOVATION LABS DIFFERENT?

- **Comprehensive Resources:** Wet and dry labs, co-working spaces, private offices, conference rooms, and a coffee shop to foster collaboration and creativity.
- **Global Reach:** First tenant Plug and Play, a world-renowned startup accelerator, brings international visibility and connections to Topeka.
- **Community Collaboration:** Built through partnerships with city and county leadership, higher education, and the private sector.
- **Strategic Location:** Situated in the heart of downtown Topeka, reimagining a former AT&T building into a center of economic energy.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The **Kansas City Animal Health Corridor spans 10 Kansas counties and 28 communities, including Manhattan, Topeka, Lawrence, and the Kansas City metro**. This corridor is the largest concentration of animal health assets in the world, representing a \$21 billion industry. With this regional strength, Topeka is uniquely positioned to drive the next wave of bioscience and ag-tech innovation.

56%

Kansas City Animal Health Corridor represents 56% of total worldwide animal health, diagnostics, and pet food sales - \$88.2 billion annually

WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO

1. CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTED SPENDING

We will be seeking **Congressional Directed Spending in FY27** to ensure the successful build-out and launch of the Link Innovation Center. Key needs include: **\$2.5 MILLION**

- **Lab Infrastructure:** Casework and hoods for 8 labs – **\$1,825,288**
- **Additional Equipment:** Specialized equipment to support bioscience and animal health research – **\$200,000**
- **Accelerator Programming:** Support for Plug and Play's Animal Health & Ag Tech Accelerator programs, as well as Plug and Play Digital Animal Health in conjunction with KC Digital Health (human health) – **\$500,000** for programming support.

2. STRENGTHEN EDA FUNDING APPLICATIONS

The Greater Topeka Partnership will be meeting with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to explore additional funding opportunities for Link Innovation Labs as part of the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor Tech Hub strategy. As funding is identified, members of Congress can support this effort by submitting formal letters of support.

\$15M

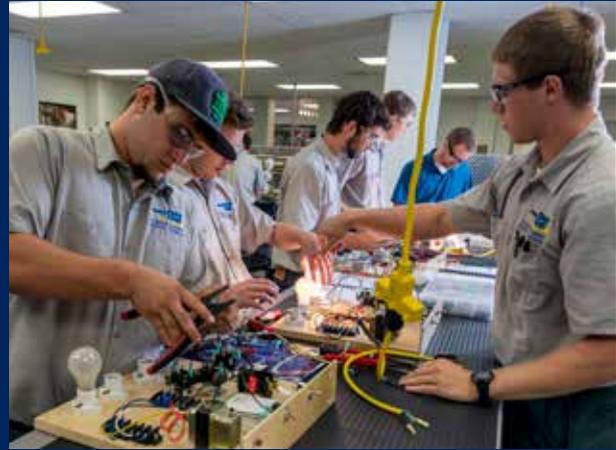
Currently committed public/
private funds for LINK Innovation
Center opening January 2026



WORKFORCE & TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Topeka's economy is growing rapidly, Shawnee County's real GDP has risen 6.4% since 2019. To sustain this growth, we must ensure employers have access to a steady, skilled workforce:

- **SKILLED TRADE TRAINING:** Research indicates that nearly 50% of all economic growth in Kansas will be in the manufacturing sector. This surge is increasing enrollment in technical and vocational schools as more students seek practical, hands-on education that leads directly to well-paying jobs. As the U.S. workforce ages and fewer young Americans enter these fields, visa programs are critical to filling gaps and keeping Kansas competitive. At the same time, we must invest in growing our own talent through institutions like Washburn University and Washburn Tech
- **UNITED FOR UKRAINE PROGRAM:** More than 200 Ukrainian refugees now live in Topeka, many employed by companies such as Frito Lay, demonstrating the value of efficient work authorization models to meet local workforce needs.
- **DEMAND FOR WORKER VISAS:** Employers in Kansas and across the nation rely on both H-1B and H-2B visa programs to fill critical workforce gaps that sustain growth and competitiveness. The H-1B program, capped at just 65,000 visas annually plus 20,000 for U.S. graduate degree holders, supports high-skill roles that complement—not replace—American workers, with national wages averaging more than double the U.S. median. Locally,



Stormont Vail Health, Topeka's largest employer, depends on H-1B professionals who retain at a 95% rate, strengthening care delivery and expanding access. At the same time, demand for H-2B workers has surged 46% since 2018, with certified positions exceeding 215,000 in 2023. These essential workers bolster industries such as hospitality, construction, forestry, and landscaping, helping small and mid-sized markets like Topeka meet labor needs and drive economic vitality.



Over 200 Ukrainian refugees have relocated to Topeka, with a 99% employment rate. TopCity Promise, an innovative program designed for work-eligible refugees was featured on CBS Evening News in 2024.

WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO

1. SUPPORT WASHBURN TECH ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TRAINING CENTER

- **We support the \$1.95 million Congressionally Directed Spending request is pending for Washburn Tech.** This funding would equip the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center to prepare students for high-demand technical careers, strengthening the regional workforce pipeline.

2. SUPPORT WORK AUTHORIZATION FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

- More than 200 Ukrainian refugees are currently working in Topeka through the U4U parolee temporary guest worker program. **We urge Congress to support legislation such as S.696 and H.R.2118 – the Protecting Our Guests During Hostilities in Ukraine Act** – which would grant U4U parolees temporary guest status and work authorization until conditions in Ukraine allow for safe return.

3. SUPPORT EXPANDED VISA ACCESS FOR KANSAS EMPLOYERS

- **We urge Congress to expand and protect access to both H-2B visas for seasonal and essential workers and H-1B visas for high-skill talent.** Kansas employers across industries—including agriculture, construction, technology, engineering, and biosciences—depend on reliable access to these programs. Ensuring timely visa availability, predictable rules, and fair allocations will help small and mid-sized markets like Topeka attract and retain the workforce needed to sustain growth and competitiveness.



A man in a black jacket is working on a large white aircraft component, possibly a wing or fuselage section, in a hangar. He is holding the component with both hands, looking intently at it. The background shows the interior of a large hangar with structural beams and lights.

AVIATION

Topeka boasts a strong aviation and defense sector anchored by Forbes Field and the 190th Air Refueling Wing (ARW), one of only two Air National Guard units in Kansas. Nearly 3,000 active-duty men and women serve in Topeka, with close to 1,000 assigned to the 190th ARW. Their mission—flying the KC-135 Stratotanker—supports global aerial refueling operations critical to national security.

Forbes is also home to the Kansas National Guard's new, consolidated Joint Force Headquarters, the Kansas Army National Guard headquarters, the company headquarters for the 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment and the Kansas Armed Forces Reserve Center.

Beyond defense, Forbes Field is a strategic economic asset. The Metropolitan Topeka Airport Authority (MTAA) is working to expand commercial and private aviation at the facility, which features a 12,803-foot primary runway and a 7,001-foot crosswind runway and 2.7 million square feet of apron space. These assets are maintained to high standards with FAA and Defense Department funding, creating a platform for future growth.



HOW CONGRESS CAN HELP

To strengthen this sector and advance Topeka's position as a hub for aviation and defense:

- **INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE:** Thank you to Sen. Moran for supporting a \$6 million Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) request to resurface the north apron. Continued investment in aviation infrastructure ensures Forbes Field remains missionready and competitive.
- **SUPPORT STRATEGIC PLANNING:** Shawnee County will pursue a Compatible Use Grant through the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) to develop a comprehensive plan aligning infrastructure development with the long-term mission of the 190th ARW.
- **ADVOCATE FOR MISSION GROWTH:** Continued congressional advocacy is critical to secure future missions, including the opportunity to host the next-generation KC-46A Pegasus refueling aircraft, strengthening Kansas's role in national defense and local economic development.

FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR



Topeka is a national hub for the financial services sector, employing more than 7,000 professionals across insurance, investment, banking, fintech, and wealth management. Industry leaders such as Advisor's Excel, Security Benefit, Magellan, Gradient, and Xinnia anchor this ecosystem, joined by key institutions like Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, Capitol Federal Savings Bank, CoreFirst Bank & Trust, Envista Credit Union, and a growing network of wealth advisory and financial technology firms. Together, these companies drive significant economic growth, attract capital, and provide high-wage careers. A recent study found that **Advisor's Excel and Security Benefit alone generate more than \$1.4 billion annually in economic impact for Shawnee County**, underscoring the sector's critical role in fueling Topeka's economic competitiveness and long-term vitality.

The health of the financial services industry also requires stability across related markets like property insurance. Recent natural disasters have brought property insurance to the forefront of national policy discussions, but challenges such as rising premiums, shrinking coverage, and insurer withdrawals from certain markets have been building for years. These trends are impacting Topeka businesses. For example, **Chavez Restoration in Topeka faces higher costs and greater uncertainty as they work to help families and businesses recover from property damage.**

HOW CONGRESS CAN HELP

To maintain and strengthen this sector, congressional leaders can:

1. PROPERTY INSURANCE STABILITY:

- **Encourage the House Financial Services Committee to prioritize stability and oversight in the property insurance sector.** Greater transparency and stronger frameworks will help ensure businesses can access affordable coverage, recover from losses, and continue investing in our communities. Recent natural disasters have heightened these concerns. Rising premiums, reduced coverage options, and insurer exits from certain markets can leave businesses vulnerable and slow economic growth.

2. ADVANCE PRO-GROWTH RETIREMENT POLICY:

- Support legislation that improves retirement savings options and charitable giving tools. **We support Rep. Schmidt co-sponsoring H.R. 2891 – IRA Charitable Rollover Facilitation and Enhancement Act of 2025**, which would repeal the restriction on IRA charitable rollovers to donor-advised funds, enhancing flexibility for community-minded investors.

3. PROMOTE REGULATORY CLARITY AND STABILITY:

- **Engage with SEC oversight committees to ensure clear, durable rulemaking and discourage “regulation by enforcement,”** which can create uncertainty for firms and clients. Under prior SEC leadership, aggressive enforcement approaches resulted in rules later modified or withdrawn; steady, predictable regulation supports long-term growth.

4. ALLOW IN-SERVICE ROLLOVERS FOR ANNUITY PURCHASES:

- **Allow participants aged 50 and older to use special in-service rollover rules to purchase principal-protected annuities**, including fixed, fixed indexed, and deferred income annuities. (See the Retirement Simplification and Clarity Act, H.R. 10467 introduced during the 2023-2024 118th Congress.)

5. UPDATE TREASURY 402(F) NOTICE:

- **Update the model rollover notice under Section 402(f) of the Internal Revenue Code** to highlight the option to rollover retirement savings to an individual retirement annuity under Section 408(b) of the Internal Revenue Code.

SMALL BUSINESS & TARIFFS

The Greater Topeka Chamber joins the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in opposing broad-based tariffs, which harm economic growth by raising prices for consumers, exposing American businesses to retaliation, and creating uncertainty. Small businesses in Topeka are already feeling these effects firsthand.

At Hazel Hill Chocolate, the cost of cacao—the raw ingredient, not the finished product—has risen more than **400%** due to complex supply chain issues in West Africa, where most of the world's cacao is produced. This surge has already driven retail chocolate prices up by about **38% industry-wide**. On top of this challenge, cacao imported into the U.S. is now subject to an additional **10% U.S. tariff**, further compounding costs. Of equal concern, European producers are avoiding this tariff by importing cacao into Canada or Mexico, processing it there into finished chocolate, and then shipping those goods into the U.S. duty free. This dynamic leaves American chocolate companies at a significant competitive disadvantage.

Other local businesses are navigating similar pressures. The Toy Store, with locations in Topeka and Lawrence, reports that **80% of its vendors are based in China** and has resorted to bulk buying to manage price hikes. Dee & Mee Hobbies in Topeka has taken on an extra **\$50,000 in inventory** to protect against further increases, highlighting the strain tariffs place on small retailers.





HOW CONGRESS CAN HELP

These examples illustrate how tariffs, layered on top of global market challenges, disproportionately impact small businesses. The Chamber strongly urges policymakers to pursue solutions that support fair trade, protect American competitiveness, and ease the burden on entrepreneurs working to grow their communities.

EASE TARIFF PRESSURES ON LOCAL BUSINESSES

Support efforts to grant timely and fair tariff exemptions for small businesses. We thank **Rep. Derek Schmidt** for submitting a letter to U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer in support of Hazel Hill Chocolate's exemption request. His letter underscores that cacao cannot be grown domestically and must be imported. Without an exemption, U.S. chocolatiers face tariffs on raw cacao while European competitors can import cacao into Canada or Mexico, process it there, and then sell finished chocolate into the U.S. tariff-free under USMCA. We encourage continued support for similar exemption requests to help small businesses remain competitive, protect jobs, and keep consumer prices affordable.

REASSERT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT:

Support the Bipartisan Trade Review Act (S.1272), cosponsored by Sen. Moran, to strengthen Congress's role in tariff decisions and help prevent unintended economic impacts on local communities.

KANSAS RIVERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT

KEY GOALS OF THE RIVERFRONT VISION PLAN

Topeka is uniquely positioned to transform one of its greatest natural assets into a driver of economic growth, cultural enrichment, and community pride. Building on the region's thriving arts district in NOTO, a revitalizing downtown, and a strong workforce, the Topeka Riverfront Vision Plan outlines an ambitious path forward. Developed through Momentum 2027 and guided by the River Advisory Council (RAC), this initiative seeks to reconnect Topekans to the Kansas River and create a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly district that serves as both a destination and a catalyst for development.

Key Goals of the Riverfront Vision Plan

1. FOSTER CONNECTIONS TO NATURE

The Kaw River is a historically significant waterway, yet access and community connection have diminished over time. The plan introduces overlooks, river access points, native plantings, green stormwater infrastructure, nature play areas, and interpretive programming to restore public interaction and environmental stewardship.

2. SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Access to trails and public spaces is a leading factor for business growth and workforce attraction. The riverfront redevelopment envisions a mixed-use district including dining, entertainment, retail, housing, and outdoor outfitters. These investments will complement ongoing economic development strategies and enhance the region's competitiveness.

3. IMPROVE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Linking existing trail systems, expanding river access for recreation and emergency response, and adding flexible seating and fishing areas will position the Kansas Riverfront as a regional outdoor destination. These enhancements will drive tourism and ecotourism while improving quality of life.

4. ENHANCE QUALITY OF PLACE

Dynamic public spaces celebrating Topeka's cultural, historical, and natural heritage are central to the plan. The riverfront will serve as a "third place"—not home or work, but a hub for connection. Features include art, lighting, interpretive exhibits, flexible gathering areas, cafes, and family programming.

5. PROMOTE PEDESTRIAN-FRIENDLY CONNECTIVITY

Today, pedestrian access between downtown, NOTO, and the river is limited. The plan introduces a loop trail, improved sidewalks, infrastructure upgrades, and an iconic pedestrian bridge linking key areas. This bridge, estimated at \$50 million, will become an anchor destination and symbol of community investment.

An aerial, top-down view of a riverfront development plan. A wide river flows through the center, with a large, modern pedestrian bridge crossing it. The bridge has a blue-tinted railing and is illuminated. On either side of the river, there are lush green parks with colorful trees, walking paths, and recreational areas. Buildings and infrastructure are visible in the background, suggesting an urban setting. The overall scene is vibrant and shows a mix of natural and built environments.

WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO

IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM FUNDING NEEDS

- **Long-Term Vision:** Pursue public-private partnerships and federal funding through agencies such as the Department of Transportation and the Build America Bureau to finance the pedestrian bridge and other major infrastructure components.
- Support federal funding opportunities and earmarks to assist with river cleanup and infrastructure planning.
- Advocate for transportation and economic development programs that prioritize riverfront redevelopment and community connectivity.
- Partner with local leaders to ensure Topeka's riverfront project aligns with state and federal priorities for tourism, recreation, and economic resilience.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA) – ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY PAGE

The Topeka Chamber is excited to meet with the EDA team to share the vision for our community's growing innovation ecosystem. Topeka's Link Innovation Center, opening in January 2026, will serve as a regional hub for entrepreneurship, technology commercialization, and workforce development. It is designed to connect private industry, academic partners, and public sector leadership to accelerate business growth and job creation across Kansas.

Our discussion will focus on how the EDA can support our innovation effort through strategic investments in infrastructure, technical assistance, and planning. We also want to explore EDA programs that could assist with related redevelopment initiatives, particularly the Topeka Riverfront Vision Plan. This plan seeks to transform an underutilized corridor into a vibrant district linking downtown, the NOTO Arts District, and the Kansas River.

AVIATION SECTOR – NATIONAL DEFENSE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION & OLDCC

Topeka's aviation industry is anchored by Forbes Field and the 190th Air Refueling Wing, one of only two Air National Guard units in Kansas. With nearly 3,000 active duty and guard members in the region, this sector has both national defense significance and strong economic potential. Our team seeks to discuss opportunities to expand aviation-related industry, attract private investment, and improve facilities.

Federal support, including a \$6 million congressional directed spending request to resurface Forbes' north apron will be critical. Next steps include Shawnee County receiving a Compatible Use Grant through the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) to develop a comprehensive plan that aligns infrastructure development with the long-term mission of the 190th Air Refueling Wing. At the same time, continued congressional advocacy is essential to secure future missions—such as positioning Topeka to host the next-generation KC-46A Pegasus refueling aircraft—which would strengthen Kansas's role in national defense.

OFFICE OF REP. FRENCH HILL – FINANCIAL SERVICES POLICY

Topeka is a financial services hub, with more than 7,000 professionals employed across firms such as Advisor's Excel, Security Benefit, and multiple wealth management companies. This sector generates over \$1.4 billion annually for Shawnee County and is critical to our region's economic competitiveness.

Our breakout meeting with the committee staff will focus on key policy concerns impacting the financial services sector. The discussion will include perspectives on SEC regulatory changes affecting independent advisors and wealth management, as well as challenges in the property insurance market, where rising premiums, insurer withdrawals, and limited oversight are creating difficulties for businesses across the state.



DINING & ACCOMMODA

During the Fly-In, guests will enjoy a mix of historic charm and modern comfort. Our group will stay at the **Hotel W in Washington, D.C.**, a landmark property known for its exceptional service and prime location near the White House and National Mall.

Evenings will feature some of the city's most notable dining experiences. We will host dinners at **Old Ebbitt Grill**, Washington's oldest saloon and a favorite gathering spot for policymakers, and **Hawk 'n' Dove**, a Capitol Hill staple with a relaxed atmosphere ideal for conversation. Congressional staff members will be invited to join these dinners, offering participants a valuable opportunity to build relationships and exchange insights in an informal setting.

A UNIQUE CAPITOL EXPERIENCE

On Monday evening, September 8, participants will enjoy a highlight of the trip: **a private tour of the U.S. Capitol**. This tour will be personally led by Rep. Derek Schmidt, providing an insider's perspective on the building's history and the daily work of Congress. This intimate experience will give guests the chance to engage directly, ask questions, and see parts of the Capitol not typically accessible to the public.



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