



# VIEW*S* & VISIONS

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## A Stalwart Partner in Economic Growth

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Sayre was recognized by his colleagues in West Virginia in 2012 and 2016 as *Best Lawyers'* "Lawyer of the Year" for Controversy and Litigation – Tax. Kin also is recognized as a leader in matters before the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration and West Virginia Lottery Commission, including compliance and licensing.

He currently serves as the city attorney for Martinsburg, West Virginia, and counsel to the Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport. He also is a member of the West Virginia Home Rule Board. He is a former staff attorney for the West Virginia State Tax Department.

The old proverb, "All roads lead to Rome," was a poignant statement on the importance of Rome in medieval times. Over the past several years, the Eastern Panhandle has seen its importance as an economic hub to West Virginia and the four-state area increase exponentially.

**In a modern economy where many businesses and consumers demand "next day" goods or services, a region must have a modern air transportation system to generate, complement and support that initiative.**



As the Eastern Panhandle becomes the economic engine for the State of West Virginia, the "traditional roads" of shipping, railway and highway have played a vital role in establishing the region's economic power. In a modern economy where many businesses and consumers demand "next day" goods or services, a region must have a modern air transportation system to generate, complement and support that initiative.

The Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport is a jewel located in the heart of Berkeley County. It is a modern air facility that provides a dynamic and unique twist to the economic expansion in this area. The airport consists of an 8,815-ft. by 150-ft. fully-instrumented (ILS) runway, an existing civilian parking ramp capable of handling all corporate aircraft including light to medium airfreight aircraft. The maximum weight capacity capability of the main runway is in excess of 600,000 pounds and is capable of launching and landing military, civilian, commercial and freight aircraft up to a Boeing 747. The size and capacity of the main runway is the largest in West Virginia.

Additional important assets of the airport are its geographical proximity to Dulles International Airport (28 nautical miles); Reagan National Airport (55.9 nautical miles) and Baltimore-Washington International Airport (55 nautical miles). There is an industrial active rail spur located near the airport, as well as access to U.S. Route 11 and Interstate 81.

With its close proximity to other major transportation facilities, the airport authority created the John D. Rockefeller IV Science and



*Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport*

Technology Center, a state-of-the-art airport industrial park. The park consists of a 92-acre parcel within a 200-acre-plus quadrant of the airport property, which includes water, sewer, high-speed data capability, and taxiway and aircraft movement areas.

According to a 2015 report issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the enabling impact of general aviation within West Virginia in 2012 was more than \$188 million, with exports accounting for a little more than 10 percent of the economic activity. General aviation in West Virginia accounted for more than 12,500 direct (manufacturing, general aviation, commercial) and indirect jobs (visitor expenditures).

As the Eastern Panhandle grows and its ability to reach more than 50 percent of the

U.S. population and two-thirds of the U.S. industrial activity increases, there are many individuals and entities who are looking to the creation of an import/export hub in the Eastern Panhandle that will bring significant economic growth to all areas of West Virginia.

In 2012, \$682.8 billion in goods were transported by air, an increase of 35 percent from 2009. The Freight Analysis Framework shows that aviation continues to play an important role in transportation and economic growth. With the facilities located within the fence and the other transportation partners including rail and over-the-road trucking, the Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport has already become a stalwart partner in the economic growth of our area.

One day, the proverb will be, “All roads lead to the Eastern Panhandle,” and the Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport Authority will prove to have been an important spoke in the wheel of economic growth. ▾