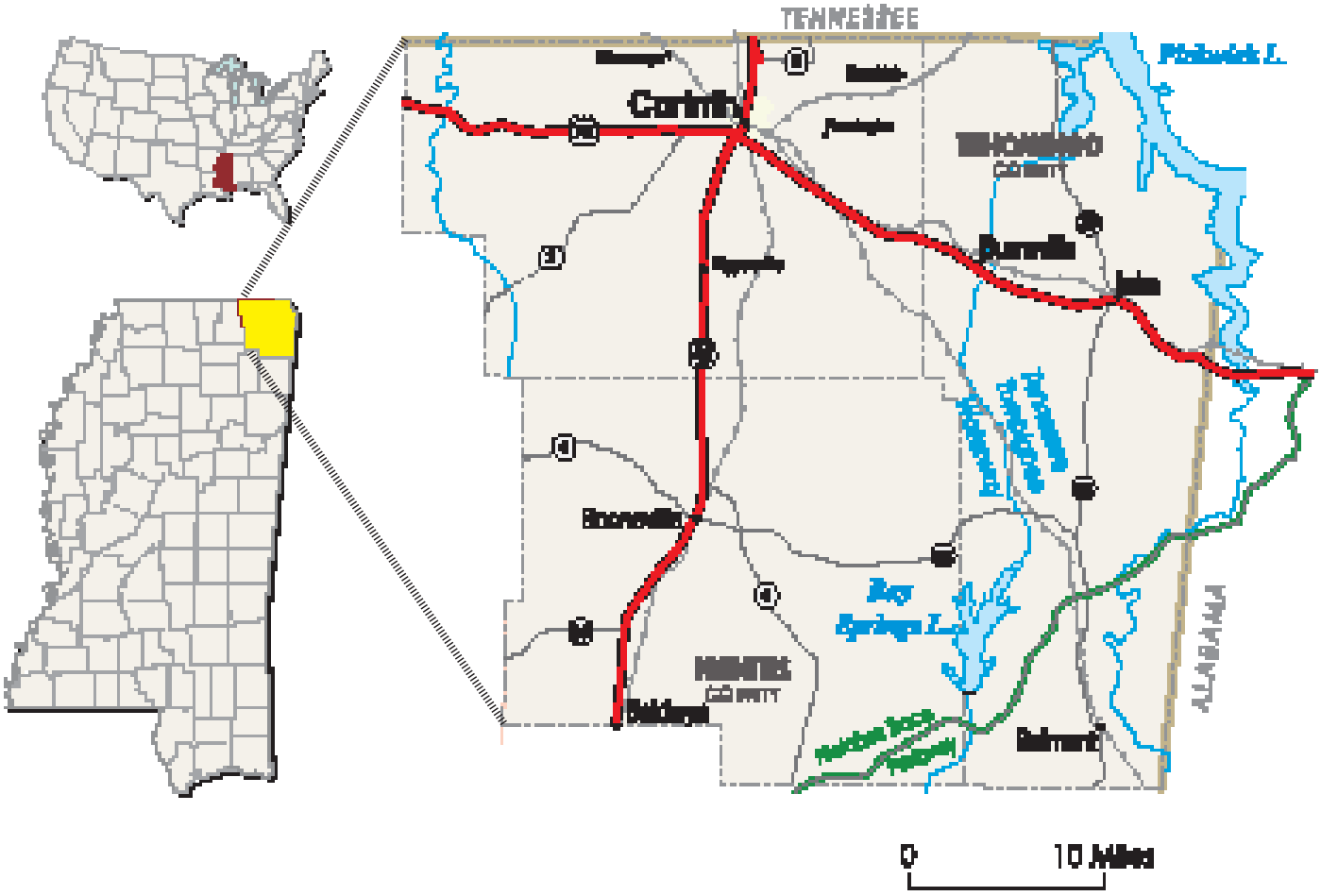

TAP ALLIANCE. Tishomingo, Alcorn, and Prentiss Counties in northeast Mississippi have created a regional alliance for economic development.

The TAP Alliance hired Boyette Strategic Advisors, a nationally recognized site selection consultant with offices in Little Rock, Atlanta, and Orlando, to develop a long-term economic development strategy.

Among the greatest strengths of the region are:
- Low cost of living;
- The community college;
- Highways;
- Quality of life;
- Affordable labor;
- Waterways;
- Available buildings; and
- School systems.

Among the greatest challenges to the region are:
- External perceptions;
- Lack of funding;
- Loss of furniture industry jobs;
- Education and training; and
- Small tax base.

The study identified several targeted industry sectors including:
- Alternative energy, especially bioenergy and solar component manufacturing;
- Food manufacturing;
- Metal fabrication and steel; and
- Transportation equipment manufacturing, especially aerospace/aviation suppliers and automotive suppliers.