

## **Rep. Sloan Participates in Electricity Advisory Committee Meeting**

March 17, 2014 – Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) participated in the U.S. Department of Energy’s Electricity Advisory Committee (EAC). Sloan is a member of the Energy Storage, Transmission, and Smart Grid Subcommittees, and Vice Chairman of the Workforce Subcommittee.

EAC members heard presentations on lessons learned regarding electric system resiliency and recovery from major events like Super Storm Sandy. EAC members then discussed what recommendations to make to the DOE to help prepare for and respond to events like Super Storm Sandy that affected 18 percent of the U.S. population. The complexity of preparation and service restoration is reflected in ties between different types of fuel (e.g., diesel fuel and electricity as the repair trucks need fuel to reach the trouble spots), and the need for electricians and pipefitters to reconnect homes to electric and natural gas service once the utility companies restore their primary service lines and generation.

While in Washington, D.C., Sloan also visited the National Cyber-security Information and Communications Center. This Department of Homeland Security agency protects federal government websites and facilities from cyber-attacks. Upon request, they will assist private businesses and other government agencies in evaluating their protections from cyber-attacks and recommend actions to improve protections after successful attacks. “Approximately 53% of reported cyber-attacks in 2013 were made against electric utilities; additional attacks were made against water and natural gas utilities,” Sloan said. “Hardening the web-portals of U.S. utilities is of paramount importance to protect against disruption of service.”

Separate meetings were also held with representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on how power plant emissions should be calculated; the Pentagon on how Ft. Riley can increase its use of renewable energy; the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on improving the movement of electricity between regions of the country; and the White House on how federal agencies can cooperate with states to improve the high voltage electric transmission system to move renewable energy from the High Plains states to the coasts.

“In my meetings with federal agency representatives, I stress that Kansans seek to be partners in expanding the generation of electricity from renewable resources and moving that power to customers who are paying much higher electric rates than we do,” said Sloan. “These meetings are part of on-going conversations in which I seek to have Kansans recognized by the federal agencies as partners in responsible decision-making.”

Rep. Sloan is serving his 10th term in the Kansas House of Representatives and is Chairman of the Vision 2020 Committee. He serves on the Transportation and Agriculture & Natural Resources Committees, in addition to energy committees with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and Council of State Governments (CSG).

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