

Sloan Appointed to EPA Advisory Committee

July 29, 2016

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) was appointed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy to the EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee (LBAC).

Federal environmental statutes delegate many programs to state and local governments for administration and oversight. Because state and local governments are ultimately responsible for programs that ensure citizens have clean air and water, safe drinking water, and responsible solid waste disposal, the Local Government Advisory Committee was created to provide information to the EPA and from the EPA to state and local governments.

The LBAC provides policy advice and recommendations to the EPA on: Changes necessary to allow flexibility and innovation and to accommodate local needs without compromising environmental performance, accountability, or fairness; Ways to improve performance measurement and speed dissemination of new environmental protection techniques and technologies among state and local governments; and Ways the EPA can help promote public access, community right-to-know, and performance measurement.

The LGAC is an independent advisory committee to ensure transparency of advisory committee decision-making, accountability to the public and the agency, with minimal influence of special interests. Greensburg, KS, Mayor Bob Dixson is the Chairman of the LGAC.

"I am extremely pleased to be appointed to the Local Government Advisory Committee," Sloan said. "My work in Kansas and nationally on clean water and water sustainability initiatives will be enhanced by my participation in the LGAC. My existing working relationships with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on water quantity will nicely tie in with EPA's water quality responsibilities."

During the recent LGAC meeting, topics covered included briefings for the Administrators overseeing: Air and Radiation, Chemical Safety and Pollution, Water, Enforcement and Compliance, Land and Emergency Management; there were presentations on communities with innovative water and land management programs; and subcommittee assignments were determined. Gina McCarthy, EPA Administrator addressed the group on the importance of its work to the Agency.

Sloan is a member of the Small Community Advisory Subcommittee, and both the Protecting America's Waters and the Air, Climate and Energy Workgroups. Sloan's work on water and energy policies in Kansas and nationally and the large number of small Kansas communities make these appointments potentially very valuable to the state.

Rep. Sloan has also served on the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Committee (DOE EAC) and the Federal Communications Commission's Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (FCC IAC). He is the only state person to ever serve on all three federal agencies' advisory committees. On the EAC, Sloan was a leader in promoting policies by the DOE to stimulate the development of electricity storage devices to support the renewable energy and energy conservation industries. With the IAC, Sloan led efforts to improve public safety communications policies.

“I bring ideas and information from Kansas to the federal agencies and bring back federal-state partnership opportunities,” said Sloan. “My work on energy, telecommunications, water, and other issues in Kansas and through the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and Council of State Governments (CSG) brought me to the attention of federal agency heads. My participation in the federal agency advisory committees has helped me bring those agency heads to Kansas to meet with regional and Kansas policy-makers, business leaders, consumer advocates, and others to develop true federal-state partnerships. I expect my work with the EPA will increase opportunities for Kansans to influence federal environmental policies.”

Rep. Sloan has hosted Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Commissioners 8 times; FCC Commissioners 4 times; Assistant Secretaries of the Army (Civil Works) and Corps of Engineers leaders 3 times; the heads of the Food and Drug Administration and National Science Foundation each once. Each of these Summits included key Kansas and regional stakeholders in discussions with the federal agency heads. He is working with Kansas University’s Information Technology & Telecommunications Center leaders to bring a FCC cyber security workshop to Kansas.

Rep. Sloan is seeking his 12th term in the Kansas House of Representatives from the 45th District.

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