

Rep. Sloan Building National Energy Policies

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) is engaged in developing national energy policies that impact Kansas. He recently spoke to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Electricity Advisory Committee about the use of new technologies to improve electric grid reliability and resiliency. During his comments he encouraged the Department to develop more effective communications and educational documents and procedures so that legislators and regulators will better understand the technical and policy options available as they develop state policies.

As a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures' (NCSL) Energy Supply Task Force, Sloan participated in discussions on using municipal wastes (trash) as a fuel to generate electricity in a low-carbon emission environment, planning for distributive generation (e.g., roof top solar), improving grid system reliability and resiliency, and third party solar generation financing. He moderated a panel on meeting the recently released U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Power Plan rules. During that panel, he reported on communications that he had with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) personnel about the agency taking the lead to ensure that the low-carbon generation envisioned by the EPA has a sufficient time-line to ensure that the electric system remains reliable and the energy is affordable.

Sloan recently hosted a FERC Commissioner in Kansas for meetings on cyber security and how State agencies and electric utilities are planning to meet the EPA Clean Power Plan requirements. This is the eighth time a FERC Commissioner has visited Kansas at Rep. Sloan's invitation to meet with Kansas state agency, utility, environment, and regional stakeholders about how federal and state interests and policies can be collaboratively developed.

"Issues affecting Kansas' electric customers, providers, State officials, and environmentalists are discussed at DOE, FERC, and other federal agencies because of the interactions and conversations that have occurred in Kansas and in federal agency advisory committees," said Sloan. "It is crucial that Kansans' concerns and ideas be heard and considered by the federal agencies, and not just those of more populace states with larger electric companies. Maintaining an affordable, reliable, resilient, and environmentally responsible electric system is vital to our state's economic and health future."

Rep. Sloan is Chairman of the Vision 2020 Committee in the Kansas House of Representatives. He also serves on the Transportation and Agriculture & Natural Resources Committees. He is a member of the DOE-sponsored GridWise Architecture Council and Co-Chairman of the Council of State Government's Interstate High Voltage Electric Transmission Siting Task Force.