

This past weekend was great weather for campaigning door-to-door. I spent more than 7 hours on Saturday and 6 1/2 hours on Sunday talking with voters. I continue to believe that voters want an opportunity to speak with the actual candidate, not surrogates, and am gratified at the number of people who thank me for making the effort. Elected officials should be accessible and responsive.

I talked with 4 separate families with the last name Sloan and a woman whose maiden name was Sloan. So far as we can tell, none of us are related, but it was almost like a family reunion weekend. I was unaware that so many Sloans live in Lawrence, much less the 45th District.

I meet interesting people every day. One evening a woman came to her door and announced that "I am a Democrat would not vote for you to save my life." That hurt. As my wife said when I got home, I hope that if she has a medical emergency that she does not reject help from Republican EMS members, physicians, and nurses. On the other hand, that same evening about an hour later a woman announced that she is a Democrat who likes my work on energy, water, and education and is voting for me.

All I ask is that voters look at my record of constituent service and leadership on education, water sustainability, renewable energy, health care delivery, and the other long-range issues on which I work before making a decision to vote for or against me.

As I was walking between houses one evening, I crunched through fallen leaves and acorns. The sound of the rustling leaves and crunch under my feet reminded me of the fun my brothers and I had raking leaves into big piles and then jumping into them. The smells and sounds of fall remind me that we can always be young.

Department of Energy: As I have previously mentioned, U.S. Dept. of Energy Secretary Chu re-appointed me to the Electricity Advisory Committee. Our first meeting will be late this month. It represents another opportunity for me to learn and to provide information about Kansas' work on electric transmission line development.

Energy: On November 4th, ITC Great Plains will hold the formal groundbreaking ceremony for the new high voltage transmission line between Plainville, KS (near Dodge City) and the KS-NE border. This is the first new transmission line that will truly benefit the development of our state's wind energy generation potential and represents six years of work to build the political consensus and develop the cost-recovery methodology that began with my first Kansas Electric Transmission Summit in Lawrence. That Summit, and its 5 successors, brought federal, regional, and state energy, environment, consumer, and policy-maker groups together to address our state's wind energy potential and the inability to move that power to customers. I plan to attend the groundbreaking ceremony in Hays.

Comments: As always, when you have questions or suggestions, please contact me. Gail and I hope that you are enjoying this fine fall weather.