

Media Release:

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Rep. Sloan Participates in FCC Advisory Committee Meeting

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) participated in the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting. Comprised of 15 members, the IAC makes recommendations to the FCC Commissioners on telecommunication policies that impact consumers, and state, local, and tribal governments.

The IAC members voted to advance a policy recommendation written by Rep. Sloan that calls for a federal-state/tribal collaboration to address policies related to customer cost and service quality issues as traditional wireline telephone companies transition from copper wire to wireless and other technologies.

"Carrier of Last Resort, customer costs, quality and availability of telecommunications services are increasingly important state and federal policy issues as more customers transition to portable, "smart" communication devices," Sloan said. "With fewer customers paying to maintain landline telephone systems, the cost to those customers or the need for federal and state subsidies increases. Coordinating federal and state policies that facilitate the transition to more cost-effective alternatives, while protecting quality and availability of service, is increasingly important."

The growth of e-government, telehealth, distance education, business, and other uses of interactive broadband (high speed Internet) services is transforming communications. Conflicts between federal and state policies and policies that unduly restrict the adoption of newer, more capable communications technologies do not serve the public well. "I am pleased that the IAC members support my efforts to initiate a dialogue between the FCC and state, local, and tribal governments to protect consumers, while facilitating the transition from legacy copper wire telephone systems to digital and other more capable communications technologies," said Sloan.

Rep. Sloan is Chairman of the Kansas House of Representatives' Vision 2020 Committee and a member of the Agriculture and Natural Resources and Transportation Committees. He is a member of the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Committee; National Conference of State Legislature's Energy Supply Task Force; and is Co-Chairman of the Council of State Governments' Interstate Electric Transmission Siting Compact Task Force. He is serving his 10th term in the Kansas House of Representatives.

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