

Rep. Sloan Tours Energy Centers

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) participated in National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Energy Supply Task Force tours of Anadarko Colorado shale oil/gas well drilling and hydraulic fracturing sites and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).

Domestic shale oil and gas production has the potential to reduce the importation of such fuels from countries that are less politically stable or that may not be friendly to the U.S.

"Kansas has a long history of oil and gas production and environmental protection leadership," said Sloan. "My participation on the tour provided opportunities to learn about and see the evolving production techniques and the improvements in environmental protection practices and technologies. Combined with my recent participation in a Council of State Governments' (CSG) Natural Gas Workshop and the global CCNG17 Convention, I have better information to monitor the petroleum industry and state regulatory program effectiveness."

The tour of NREL focused on cutting edge research and production research involving solar panels and energy efficiency. NREL is a U.S. Department of Energy-owned facility operated on a contract basis. The scientists do basic and applied research on renewable energy technologies and provide assistance to private sector businesses with manufacturing problems.

"I have visited NREL's wind and bio-fuel research centers many times, but this was my first in-depth tour of the solar program," Sloan said. "My work to prove the viability and feasibility of a wind-solar-energy storage electric generation project for Kansas will benefit from the information learned at NREL. The future energy needs of Kansas the U.S. will necessarily be a balance of reliable, affordable, and responsible generation technologies. Kansas must be a leader in achieving that balance."

Rep. Sloan is Chairman of the Vision 2020 Committee and a member of the Agriculture & Natural Resources and Transportation Committees. He is Co-Chairman of the Council of State Governments Interstate Electric Transmission Siting Compact Task Force and a member of the Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory committee and the Federal Communications Committee's Intergovernmental Advisory Committee.

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