

## **Rep. Sloan Files Comments with DOE, Participates in GWAC Meeting**

September 29, 2015

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) filed comments with the U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE) on a Request for Information about a possible Transformer Reserve Program. The DOE requests comments as to whether the nation's electric system would be more resilient to respond to hurricanes, tornados, and other forms of catastrophic events by having large electric transformers stored around the country for installation on an as needed basis.

"I filed bi-partisan comments with a Washington State legislator emphasizing two points," said Sloan. "Large, high voltage transformers are designed to fit specific system requirements, so reserve transformers would marginally work until new specifically configured transformers can be manufactured overseas and delivered; the DOE and its National Laboratories have opportunities to model such less expensive alternatives as increasing transmission redundancy, natural gas-peak electric generator placement, and using community anchor institutions with distributive generation (e.g., roof top solar) capabilities."

"The bi-partisan comments send an important message to the DOE that maintaining a reliable, resilient, affordable electric grid does not have to be 'political,' but can reflect technological options," Sloan said. "It is likely that we will be the only state legislators to provide comments."

Rep. Sloan also participated in the DOE-sponsored GridWise Architecture Council (GWAC) meeting. "One of our primary current projects is to develop a Transactive Energy System Decision-Maker's Checklist. As the only state legislative GWAC member, providing elected and regulatory officials guidance on how the revolution in self-generation and telecommunications is changing relations between customers and utilities should be examined is vital," said Sloan. "The first draft of the Checklist is based on previous publications by GWAC members, including me, and is being revised with the expectation that a more refined, and valuable, document will be generally available late spring 2016."

Rep. Sloan is serving his 11th term in the Kansas House of Representatives. He is Chairman of the Vision 2020 Committee and a member of the Transportation and Agriculture & Natural Resources Committees. He is a leader on energy and environmental issues within the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Council of State Governments.

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