

Rep. Sloan Speaks at Emerging Issues Policy Forum

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) spoke at the 2011 Emerging Issues Policy Forum on issues state regulators and elected officials confront to ensure an electric supply that is reliable, affordable, and responsible (cleaner).

Sloan spoke about the need for a more robust national transmission system to move low cost wind-generated electricity to high cost states; the need to reward first adopter companies that invest in new clean-air technologies and energy conservation practices that benefit consumers; and the need to implement environmental regulations that improve air and water quality at a pace that is technologically and economically achievable.

"Energy, just as telecommunications, is moving away from supply commodities (energy, voice) to delivering services to customers (data and energy management) with new applications being proposed every day," said Sloan. "The public and elected officials want more 'green' jobs in their states and communities, but the realities of affordable and reliable energy dictate that Kansas' wind energy must be able to reach markets in high cost U.S. cities in the East and South."

Rep. Sloan demonstrated how the work of the Council of State Governments' (CSG) Interstate Transmission Siting Compact Task Force that he co-chairs will facilitate the movement of cleaner electricity by simplifying the multi-state regulatory processes, while protecting the rights of people to participate in the decision-making process. He also talked about Hydro-Quebec's efforts to sell more electricity in the Northeastern states, instead of Midwestern wind energy developers meeting those renewable energy market needs.

"Meeting U.S. reduced carbon emission electricity needs requires restructuring energy supplies (renewables, natural gas), energy use (conservation, energy efficient equipment), rate structure reforms that encourage and reward consumer decisions that reduce electricity demands, 'smart' technologies for greater consumer control of energy consumption, and the wisely integrating new electric devices that use and monitor energy use (e.g, electric vehicles, iPads)," Sloan said. "Change in energy supplies and use are coming, we must intelligently manage that change to ensure reliability, affordability, and responsibility."

Rep. Sloan is serving his ninth term in the Kansas House of Representatives. He is Chairman of the Vision 2020 Committee and a member of the Joint Committee on Energy and the Environment; Energy & Utilities, Local Government, and Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget Committees. He is Co-Chairman of the

CSG Interstate Transmission Siting Compact Task Force and a member of the CSG Environment Task Force and National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Energy Supply Task Force and Environment Committee. Rep. Sloan is the only state legislator on the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Committee.

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