

Rep. Sloan Speaks at Emerging Issues Policy Forum

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) participated in the Emerging Issues Policy Forum (EIPF) Conference on “Powering the Future.” EIPF uniquely brings federal, state, consumer, and industry leaders on energy issues together as equals to identify common perspectives for national policy development. Rep. Sloan was recognized for the six Kansas Electric Transmission Summits he has organized and his reappointment to the U.S. Department of Energy’s Electricity Advisory Committee.

Rep. Sloan noted that eight consecutive Presidents of the United States have called for increased renewable energy production and a national energy plan, but very little has been accomplished. “I discussed the 10-year Energy Plan for Kansas that I introduced in the 2010 Legislature to guide utilities, state policy-makers, and consumers in making investments in energy conservation and supply,” Sloan said. “My comments spoke to the need for states to continue leading energy policy developments in the absence of Congressional actions on a national energy policy.”

Sloan also raised issues related to the impact of natural gas production from coal beds and shale on water quality and the need to comprehensively protect fresh water supplies, while increasing production of lower-carbon emitting natural gas for vehicle and power plant fuels.

Sloan was further recognized for his leadership within the Council of State Governments (CSG) to develop an Interstate Compact on Transmission Siting. The ability to move wind and solar energy from remote parts of the U.S. to consumers in urban areas is dependent on improving the interstate transmission system. Providing a process by which state governments can cooperate in those endeavors is the objective of the CSG working group.

“The U.S. is losing the renewable energy technology development race to other nations and we must invest more to innovate and create jobs in the U.S., rather than in Asia and Europe,” said Sloan. “Advances in cyber security technologies is an excellent example of where we need to focus our attention as we move to a ‘Smart Grid’ and face hundreds to thousands of cyber attacks each day on our nation’s electric system.”

Rep. Sloan is Chairman of the Vision 2020 Committee and a member of the Joint Committee on Energy & Environment and the Energy & Utilities Committees. Nationally, he is a member of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Electricity Advisory Committee, Gridwise Architecture Council, National Wind Coordinating Collaborative’s Steering Committee, National Conference of State Legislatures’ Energy Supply Task Force, and Vice Chairman of the Council of State Governments’ Environment Task Force.

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