

Rep. Sloan Speaks at DOE Meeting Predicting Fuel Costs

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) spoke at the U.S. Department of Energy's Summer Energy Outlook Meeting. Co-sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), the workshop focused on predictions about energy supplies and prices and energy assurance planning.

"My comments addressed the need for robust, redundant, reliable energy supply lines," said Sloan. "The relatively small cost of electric transmission lines, petroleum pipelines, and other energy supply systems is cheap insurance against weather, mechanical, human error, and other forms of disruption. The cost of energy outages in lost productivity, effects on public safety, and impacts on quality of life are far greater monetarily than investments in energy supply reliability."

The Department of Energy's and other experts predict that nationally natural gas, crude oil, and gasoline prices will remain relatively steady for the next two years. Crude oil should sell within the \$70-\$85 per barrel (42 U.S. gallons) range, natural gas in the \$5-\$7.50 per MCF (million cubic feet) range, and gasoline in the \$2.80-\$3.00 per gallon range. Each of these sets of numbers is at least 25 percent lower than in 2009 and more comparable to 2007 figures.

Other speakers addressed integrating wind energy into the electric grid, planning for energy supply emergencies, national and international factors affecting energy supply prices and reliability, and pressures on electric rates.

Rep. Sloan is Chairman of the Kansas House of Representatives' Vision 2020 Committee and Vice Chairman of the Council of State Governments' Environment Task Force. He is a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures' Energy Supply Task Force, Military & Veterans Affairs Task Force, and Environment Committee; Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Committee; GridWise Architecture Council; and National Wind Coordinating Collaborative's Steering Committee. Rep. Sloan is serving his 8th term in the Kansas Legislature from the 45th District.