

### **Rep. Sloan Participates in FCC Intergovernmental Advisory Committee**

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) participated in the recent Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Intergovernmental Affairs Committee (IAC) meeting. Members received briefings on issues related to: technological transition from copper to new communications technologies, local satellite dish placement ordinances, gigabit city challenge, rules related to human exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields, and federal Universal Service Fund reforms.

"The IAC reviewed our policy recommendations to the FCC Commissioners, several of which I drafted in response to Kansas telecommunication needs," Sloan said. "I am particularly concerned about how the FCC will define basic telecommunications services as we transition from traditional telephones to newer personal communications devices, and how the FCC and state governments can foster broadband deployment to underserved areas, increase broadband speeds to all customers, and increase the adoption of broadband capabilities in support of delivering healthcare and other services."

Rep. Sloan has organized two Broadband Summits in Kansas at which FCC Chairman/Commissioner have participated and co-chaired a hearing on transitioning from legacy telephone communications technologies to internet-based technologies that was held at the State Capitol. Those meetings brought telecommunications issues important to Kansans to the attention of federal regulatory agency personnel and members of Congress.

IAC Chairwoman Joyce Dickerson recognized Rep. Sloan for his leadership in initiating Committee engagement on the issues related to technological transitioning and potential FCC roles.

The IAC adopted a recommendation to the FCC Commissioners regarding potential FCC strategies for advancing broadband adoption and digital literacy. "Included in that document are recommendations by me encouraging the FCC to require applicants for mergers and grant funds to specifically include digital literacy components," said Sloan. "This is particularly important for the Connect America fund applications designed to expand broadband availability."

Rep. Sloan is Chairman of the Kansas House of Representatives' Vision 2020 Committee, and a member of the Transportation and Agriculture & Natural Resources Committees. In addition to the FCC's Intergovernmental Advisory Committee, he serves on the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Committee and the GridWise Architecture Council. He is serving his tenth term in the Kansas Legislature.

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