

### Rep. Sloan Participates in GWAC Meeting

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) attended the GridWise Architecture Council (GWAC) meeting as one of its newest members. GWAC is a U.S. Dept. of Energy authorized group of persons knowledgeable about Smart Grid. GWAC's mission is to assist development of inter-operability standards and procedures.

Smart Grid is the "marriage" of telecommunications and energy systems such that two-way interactive communications exist between the energy company's central office and individual segments of the energy system (e.g., electrical transformers), as well as independently between the segments. The objective is to identify failing or under performing components prior to failure, permit "self-healing" during system outages, and overall improve the efficiency of delivering electricity to customers. Inter-operability is the ability of components of the Smart Grid system to communicate effectively and securely regardless of the manufacturer of the component (similar to all CDs "work" in every CD player, regardless of which company made the CD or the player).

"My role at GWAC is to facilitate communication between the Smart Grid technical experts and public policy-makers so that appropriate policies can be developed that cost-effectively bring Smart Grid technologies to benefit electric consumers," said Sloan. "Smart Grid can reduce utility line losses, identify failing transformers, isolate system breaks, and generally reduce utility operating costs while improving operating efficiencies. While most media coverage focuses on future "smart appliances" and electric cars acting as "energy storage," the immediate benefit of Smart Grid technologies lies in improving the electric utility's performance."

Rep. Sloan was recognized in 2008 with the GridWise Alliance Leadership Award for helping bring technical information to policy-makers in formats that they can understand and utilize. "As a member of GWAC, I will continue and expand that role of facilitating understanding between technical people and policy-makers so that consumers receive the benefits of Smart Grid as quickly and cost-effectively as possible," Sloan said.

Lawrence was selected by Westar Energy as the pilot community for installing Smart Meters that ultimately will allow two-way, real-time communications between the utility and customers about changes in electricity prices and consumption.

Rep. Sloan is Chairman of the Kansas House of Representative's Vision 2020 Committee, and a member of both the Energy & Utilities and Government Efficiency and Technology Committees. He is serving his 8<sup>th</sup> term in the House of Representatives from the 45<sup>th</sup> District in Lawrence and Douglas County.

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