

The Council of State Governments (CSG) names Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) co-chair of their National Transmission Siting Advisory Panel.

CSG is the largest professional organization comprised of state legislators, governors, and judicial branch members. Their mission is to increase interstate cooperation, efficiency in government operations, and recognize "Best Practices." CSG earlier this year recognized HB 2445, sponsored by Rep. Sloan, as "Suggested State Legislation" for its innovative means of increasing coordinated discussions and planning between military bases and local government officials.

"The National Transmission Siting Advisory Panel's objective is to increase interstate cooperation for the siting and approval of interstate high voltage transmission lines," Sloan said. "A major constraint on developing Kansas' wind energy generation potential is the absence of such transmission lines to 'load centers' like Las Vegas, St. Louis, and Washington, D.C. The Panel will attempt to develop an Interstate Compact Draft detailing how state Public Utility Commissions, Governors, and Legislators can cooperate to facilitate the movement of renewable energy across state lines."

The Panel is scheduled to meet at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under the auspices of Commissioner Phil Moeller. Commissioner Moeller has been to Kansas for three Kansas/Regional Electric Transmission Summits organized by Rep. Sloan. The U.S. Department of Energy will also be participating in the Panel, as well as several state regulatory commissioners, regional transmission operators (RTOs), and other stakeholders.

"I am very pleased to serve as Co-Chairman of the CSG Panel. This is a very important issue to Kansans and the economic future of much of rural western Kansas," Sloan said. "CSG accepted my suggestion that they are the most appropriate nonpartisan organization to facilitate development of an Interstate Compact Draft on coordinated transmission line siting."

To have the force of law, a Compact must be introduced and passed by each state legislature wishing to participate. The goal is to develop one or more Compact Drafts that reflect the shared interests of wind energy production states; renewable energy dependent states; and states through which the transmission lines carrying wind energy must be constructed, but which have little need for the renewable energy themselves.

Rep. Sloan is Chairman of the Vision 2020 Committee and a member of the Energy & Utilities Committee. He is Vice Chairman of CSG's Environment Committee, member of the National Wind Coordinating Collaborative's Steering Committee, member of the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Committee, and a member of the GridWise Architecture Council.

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