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Rep. Sloan Speaks at NCSL Conference

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) moderated two panels on national energy policies at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) 2016 Summit. As Moderator, Sloan helped coordinate the speakers and posed questions that stimulated discussion amongst the panelists and between other attendees and the panelists.

Sloan moderated a panel entitled "The Evolving Electric Grid" with Mark McGranaghan, Vice President of the Electric Power Research Institute, and Commissioner Ann McCabe from the Illinois Commerce Commission.

The second panel that he moderated focused on "The Rise of Renewables" and featured Lyndon Rive, CEO of SolarCity, Tom Kiernan, CEO of the American Wind Energy Association, and Anne Pramaggiore, CEO of Commonwealth Edison.

Sloan's comments and questions to the panelists focused on how wind and solar generation and energy storage technologies can be integrated into the electric grid at both the utility scale and individual home owner levels.

"Much of my energy policy work focuses on how individuals, businesses, and utilities can monetize their ability to produce energy, reduce energy consumption, and provide ancillary services like frequency regulation," Sloan said. "The two panels enabled conference attendees to focus on how the technological advances in generation and demand management increase opportunities for all parties to improve the electric grid's reliability, resilience, and responsible generation and use of energy." The need to maintain affordability of electricity, especially for those who do not generate some of their electricity consumed, was included in the discussion.

Sloan also participated in the NCSL Military & Veterans Affairs Task Force where he reported on his work with the Veterans Administration to increase the use of the Internet to permit Kansas veterans to be "seen" by VA healthcare providers through telehealth programs located in the veterans' communities. The goal is to improve coordination so that healthcare outcomes improve and travel by veterans and family members to distant VA hospitals is minimized.

Rep. Sloan is serving his 11th term in the Kansas House of Representatives and is a member of several U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Communications Commission, and Environmental Protection Agency advisory committees. He has hosted federal agency heads in Kansas 20 times for meetings with Kansans to develop improved coordination between federal and state energy, telecommunications, and water programs.