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Rep. Sloan Meets with DOE, White House, and EPA Staff

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) attended the National Conference of State Legislatures' (NCSL) Capitol Forum. Sloan is a member of both the Energy Supply Task Force and the Military & Veterans Affairs Task Force.

The Energy Supply Task Force included briefings on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Power Plan, the impact on the nation's electric system of nuclear powered generation plants closing because they cannot compete economically with low-cost natural gas-fired generators, and the growth of micro-grids.

Rep. Sloan led discussions with U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) staff on the topic of Modernizing the Electric Grid and the Quadrennial Energy Review. "The DOE staff were particularly interested in the presentations that I have made nationally to legislators and regulators on how energy technologies can assist state policy-makers to improve electric system reliability while holding cost increases to a minimum," Sloan said. The Quadrennial Energy Review is part two of a Presidential directive to identify problems and potential solutions to the nation's long-term energy supply and consumption needs. "I talked about how improvements in communications technologies will increasingly permit customers to monetize their strengths in generation (e.g., customer-owned wind and solar generators), demand management, and the provision of ancillary services," said Sloan. Sloan was invited to address the Secretary of Energy during the first phase of the QER. He spoke potential state-federal cooperation to strengthen the nation's high voltage electric transmission system's reliability and capacity.

Rep. Sloan is also a member of the National Conference of Environmental Legislators (NCEL) and met with White House and EPA staff members at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House grounds. "White House and EPA staff briefed us on their perspective of the Clean Power Plan rules and how the rules provide states great flexibility in developing clean air and energy plans," Sloan said. "The nation's businesses, consumers, and utilities are already moving toward lower carbon generation technologies, I probed about whether plans exist to include refineries, cement plants, and other power generating businesses in the Clean Power Plan requirements and how the EPA will assist states in developing coordinated collaborative programs to meet carbon emission reduction requirements," said Sloan.

Kansas' Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), in cooperation with the Kansas Corporation Commission and electric utilities, is developing the statewide plan to meet the Clean Power Plan requirements. Understanding whether the EPA will increase the number of generating businesses required to meet emission standards and how interstate cooperation can more cost-effectively meet those requirements are key elements to developing such plans. Sloan hosted a Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission (FERC) Commissioner, state and regional electric generation stakeholders, and consumer representatives at KDHE this past summer to discuss how the Clean Power Plan requirements will impact Kansans.

Rep. Sloan served two three-year terms on the Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Committee and is a two-term member of the DOE-created GridWise Architecture Council. He also serves on the Federal Communications Commission's Intergovernmental Affairs Committee. He is Vice Chairman of the Kansas House of Representatives' Vision 2020 Committee and a member of both the Transportation and Agriculture & Natural Resources Committees. He is serving his 11th term in the House.

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