

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

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) participated as a member of the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC) July 1-2, 2013, meeting. The IAC members represent state, local, and tribal governments and provide the FCC Commissioners and staff with inputs on proposed federal communications policies.

"The IAC explored several issues key to Kansas residents," Sloan said. "We specifically explored how local public safety answering points (PSAPs) and telecommunication companies will transition from copper-wire analog-based E-911 service to next generation 911 services involving internet protocol, wireless, fiber, and other technologies; the ConnectED initiative to support broadband services to classrooms and libraries; and RF (radio frequency) emission safety."

"The IAC is developing recommendations that the FCC assist states, local governments, tribes, and telecommunications companies develop 'Dig Once' programs through which fiber optic cable is laid during road, sewer, or other construction projects," said Sloan. "It is more efficient and cost-effective to lay conduit for broadband capability at the same time the site is being disturbed for other construction projects, than to do so at a later date."

Cities across the U.S., including Lawrence, have Dig Once programs by which fiber optic cable is laid during construction projects. Over several months or years, the infrastructure necessary to provide 21<sup>st</sup> century connectivity is constructed and connected.

The IAC also recommended policies related to advancing broadband adoption and digital literacy; ensuring reliability of calls to E-911 during times of emergency; and making disaggregated complaint data on telecommunications companies available to state and tribal policy-makers to better assist consumers resolve complaints.

"We also focused attention on the FCC's handling of complaints against telecommunications companies filed by customers and how data on complaints can be provided to state officials so that we can better support customer interests," Sloan said. "Deregulation of the telecommunication service providers has meant that the State has less oversight responsibility and authority. However, if state officials are aware that a provider's customers are filing large numbers of complaints, then we can 'jawbone' company officials in support of our consumers."

Rep. Sloan is Chairman of the Vision 2020 Committee and a member of the Transportation and Agriculture Committees. He is serving his 10<sup>th</sup> term in the Kansas House of Representatives and is a member of the U.S. Dept. of Energy's Electricity Advisory Committee and GridWise Architecture Council, the Federal Communications Commission's Intergovernmental Advisory Committee; and the national Conference of State Legislatures' Energy Supply and Military & Veterans Affairs Task Forces.

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