

Rep. Sloan Participates in Emerging Issues Policy Forum

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) participated in the 2014 Emerging Issues Policy Forum (EIPF), a symposium that brings selected federal energy agency executives, utility company executives, public utility regulators, consumer advocates, and state legislators together. Presentations on best practices, technological advances, and policy and technological convergence stimulated discussions and networking opportunities.

Rep. Sloan addressed natural gas-electricity generation coordination from a state policy-maker's perspective. With EPA rules transitioning electric generation from coal to natural gas and renewables, making sure sufficient natural gas supplies are available is crucial to "keeping the lights on." This is especially important during extended periods of very cold temperatures when home heating demands rise, and manufacturers and utilities using natural gas are constrained or reduced.

"My comments focused on how the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and state and regional regulators can protect customer interests by diversifying both electric generation fuel types and supply lines, said Sloan. "I also talked about how electric customers can partner with electric utilities to create micro-grids for energy reliability and resiliency."

Rep. Sloan has organized and hosted ten policy summits that brought FERC Commissioners, Department of energy executives, Federal Communications Commission Commissioners, and hundreds of Kansas and regional energy and telecommunication stakeholders together to develop greater understanding of federal-state-private sector interests to better serve customers.

Rep. Sloan is serving his 10th term in the Kansas House of Representatives. He is Chairman of the Vision 2020 Committee and a member of both the Agriculture & Natural Resources and Transportation Committees. He has served two terms on the Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Committee, GridWise Architecture Council, and the Federal Communications Commission's Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

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