

## **Rep. Sloan Speaks at International Energy Conference**

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) spoke at the Second International Transactive Energy Conference on how public officials are engaged in facilitating the evolving electric grid through smart technologies that permit customer involvement. Transactive Energy is the use of economic signals to engage intelligent controls enabling electric customers to purchase or sell electricity from the traditional utility or other customers based on those price signals.

Department of Energy representatives spoke about their development of building energy management systems that they provide to interested persons for free to better enable those managers to more effectively reduce total energy use.

Discussions focused on factors that will define the evolving electric utility, including: two way communications between the utility and customers, monetizing services provided to customers who self-generate electricity, expansion of electric vehicle recharge stations, increased distributed generation with both dispatchable and nondispatchable power, and electric loads following generation and generation following loads.

“My comments focused on the need for state officials and regulators to recognize how customer options to generate some or all of their electricity and to use smart phones to manage the operation of appliances and other home and business devices will impact low income customers as well as the utility,” Sloan said. “I also encouraged the Department of Energy, utilities, researchers, and others involved in designing and operating the evolving electric system to do a much better job of informing customers about their options and opportunities.”

Many speakers indicated that the 2015-25 will be a decade of transition in how customers purchase and use electricity. State legislators will set the criteria and rules by which public utility commissions and utilities will meet these challenges to support customer choices.

International representatives spoke about the Transactive Energy development in their countries. Some utilities and policy-makers in Europe and Australia are moving more quickly than in the U.S., others like India are struggling to bring reliable electricity to millions of residents.

Rep. Sloan was cited for the article on why legislators and energy customers should learn about Transactive Energy that was printed in Public Utilities Fortnightly, a leading utility publication, last month and for facilitating a webinar for other legislators from across the country.

Rep. Sloan will begin his 11th term in the Kansas House of Representatives on January 12, 2015. He serves on Department of Energy and Federal Communications Commission advisory committees, as well as National Conference of State Legislatures and Council of State Governments Task Forces.