

Rep. Sloan Attends Natural Gas Policy Institute

Rep. Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence) attended the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) – Department of Energy (DOE) sponsored Natural Gas Policy Institute. Program speakers addressed shale gas production levels and potentials, pipeline infrastructure replacement and expansion needs, managing risks of the shale gas production, balancing existing and potential competing customer demands for natural gas, federal and state regulatory roles, and the potential impact of exporting U.S. natural gas. Participants also toured a combined heat and power plant and a petro-chemical research center.

Rep. Sloan has previously participated in programs focusing on well drilling, directional drilling, hydraulic fracturing, and many electric reliability factors.

“U.S. natural gas prices are approximately one third the price paid in Japan and many other markets,” Sloan said. “Exporting our surplus natural gas would improve the U.S. balance of payments, create domestic jobs, and improve local economies. A key issue for me is to ensure that such exports will not adversely impact residential natural gas heating supplies and consumer prices.”

Data was provided Institute participants that at \$5 per mcf (million cubic feet), the U.S. can ultimately cost-effectively produce 1500 tcf (trillion cubic feet) of natural gas. In 2014, the U.S. consumed 27 tcf of gas. Current U.S. natural gas prices are in the \$2.65 mcf range.

“We also heard testimony about the Oklahoma earthquakes that were the result of injecting oil and gas well waste water into the Arbuckle formation (rock formation hundreds or thousands of feet below the surface). I provided information about the Kansas Geological Survey’s research and Kansas Corporation Commission rules limiting the volume of salt water injection and injection pressure rates to essentially eliminate man-created earthquakes in Kansas,” Sloan said.

Rep. Sloan has served on several Department of Energy advisory committees and has organized seven electricity summits that brought federal agency heads and regional energy interests together in Kansas. He is Chairman of the Kansas House of Representatives’ Vision 2020 Committee and a member of the Transportation and Agriculture and Natural Resources Committees.

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