

Resolution Honoring Thomas “Tom” J. Sloan

Whereas Thomas “Tom” J. Sloan recently announced his retirement after more than 24 years serving the people of the State of Kansas as a State legislator focusing on a broad portfolio of issues including energy, telecommunications, water policy, and higher education and other topics;

Whereas Tom was born in New York, and prepared for his years of service by first earning a BA in Political Science from Syracuse University in 1968, an MA in Political Science from Michigan State University and finally a PhD in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1975;

Whereas Tom kicked off his career in public service by serving as the Chair of the Douglas County Rural Water District 1, from 1982 to 2019, before becoming the Chief of Staff for Kansas Senate Majority Leader, Bob Talkington, then being elected to the Kansas State Senate, from 1983-1985 and from 1986-1989, and later elected to the Kansas House of Representatives, District 45, from 1995-2019;

Whereas Tom also had other interests, serving as the President, Sloan and Associates, 1994-2019; a farmer; a communications consultant; a government affairs representative for the Getty Oil Company; the Associate Director, Kansas State Nurses Association; the Assistant to Secretary of Corrections, State of Kansas; the Executive Director, Western Resources (1994); and an Assistant Professor, Kansas State University (1976); *Whereas* Tom also was active on a range of caucuses during his career, serving as Member, Kansas Energy Council (2002-present); Chair, Douglas County Rural Representative, District 1, (1985-present), Member, Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Committee, Kansas House of Representatives; Member, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Kansas House of Representatives; Chairman, Council of State Governments’ Energy & Environment Task Force (2005-2006); Chair, Government, Technology and Security Committee, Kansas State of Representatives; Vice Chairman, House of Representatives Utilities Committee; Chairman, Joint Legislative Committee on Energy; Chairman, Midwest Legislative Council’s Renewable Energy Committee (2005-2006); Member, Transportation Committee, Kansas House of Representatives; Member, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee, Kansas House of Representatives; Vice Chair, Vision 2020 Committee, Kansas House of Representatives; Chair, Water and Environment Committee, Kansas House of Representatives; Chair, Water and Environment Committee, Kansas House of Representatives; Member, Electricity Advisory Committee, U.S. Department of Energy (2008); Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Discussion Groups on High Voltage Transmission Lines (2007, 2008); Member, Kansas Energy Council (2002-2008); Member, U.S. Department of Energy Electricity Advisory Committee (2008); Chair, Energy and Environment Task Force, Council of State Governments (2005-2006); and Chair, Renewable Energy Committee, Midwest Legislative Council (2005-2006);

Whereas, in his copious free time, Tom also has served as a Member of the Council of State Government (1995-present); Member, National Conference of State Legislatures (1995-present); Member, Cosmopolitans International (1990-present); Member, Columbia Sheep Breeders of America (1985-present); Member, Kansas Electric Transmission Summits I-V; Member and Chair, Rotary International (2000-2004);

Whereas, as a thought leader in the world of electric transmission, Representative Sloan led the national discussion on the interdependency between transmission and the adoption of renewable energy, inspiring a number of transmission plans, helping foster the development of the groundbreaking Kansas Infrastructure Authority, chairing the National Wind Coordinating Committee’s Transmission Workgroup, and penning an insightful column for a decade in Public Utilities Fortnightly;

Whereas, as a champion of the idea that states serve as the laboratories of democracy in the federal system, Tom served as an ambassador between the community of state legislators and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”), befriending and interacting with FERC Commissioners and staff of every political and regulatory philosophy, which on multiple instances was celebrated over a Royals game (and even a couple opening pitches) at Kauffman Stadium;

Whereas, understanding the importance of mentorship, Tom was an unshakeable, constant, and essential advisor, supporter, and friend to an entire generation of up-and-coming energy professionals, always seeing past any consideration of their background, affiliation, or region, but instead with a appreciation of their merit, and seeking nothing in return, but their continued public service;

Whereas, in addition to his legislative leadership, Tom is at heart a farmer with a love of the land and the life that it sustains, who never speaks more warmly than when describing the goings-on at his Lawrence farm with its herd of Columbia sheep (an all-American breed!), rescued puppies, rambunctious family, and his loving wife, Gail;

Whereas, during his tenure, Tom, recognizing the value of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (“NARUC”) as a vector for change and catalyst for collaboration in Washington policy circles, frequently engaged with NARUC programs, such as being an executive committee member on the National Council on Electricity Policy;

Whereas Tom was widely respected by all in NARUC, a frequent participant in its meetings, a partner to its programs, and a friend to many of its members and staff;

Whereas Tom was always available to provide his expertise and wisdom, and his kindness and good sense of humor will be greatly missed; *now therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2019 Summer Policy Summit in Indianapolis, Indiana expresses its gratitude to Tom Sloan for his steadfast commitment to ensure safe, secure, and reliable access to critical utility services for all citizens and extends its best wishes to him in all of his future endeavors.

Sponsored by the Executive Committee

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on July 24, 2019