Legislative Leadership Biographies
Interstate Transmission Line Siting National Advisory Panel

Rep. Rocky Adkins (Kentucky) currently serves as House Majority Floor Leader. He is now serving in his 23rd year as a legislator. A leader in the field of energy independence, Rep. Adkins has introduced several ground-breaking pieces of legislation that will help our nation achieve energy self sufficiency in the coming years. His legislation includes incentives for the conversion of coal to transportation fuels, use of agricultural products for energy such as biodiesel, biomass, ethanol and cellulose, and greater utilization of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and hydro. Rep. Adkins' legislative initiatives also promote conservation and incentives for energy efficient home building and construction. He was recently appointed Vice Chair of the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) by Chairman Governor Joe Manchin who called Rep. Adkins, "the South's lead legislator on energy." Adkins was also elected Chair of the Southern Legislative Conference's Energy and Environment Committee.

Rep. Roger Barrus (Utah) was raised on a small family farm in Southeast Idaho. He graduated in 1974 from Utah State University's College of Engineering in a new degree program that would lead to a career in Environmental Engineering. He spent his career working primarily in the energy industry and retired in 2005. He is familiar with the permitting process of intrastate and interstate transmission pipelines. Representative Barrus was elected to the Utah House of Representatives in 2000. He has served on the Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee since being elected and has chaired that Committee since 2005. He is Utah's leader for most energy-related issues. In addition to his legislative responsibilities, Representative Barrus serves as Chairman of the Environment Committee for the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and as a member of NCSL's Energy Supply Taskforce.
Rep. Kim Koppelman (North Dakota, Advisory Committee Co-Chair) was first elected to the North Dakota House of Representatives in 1994, where he chairs the Constitutional Revision Committee and serves on the Judiciary and Political Subdivisions Committees. Rep. Koppelman is the past chairman of The Council of State Governments. He is also a graduate of the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development, in Madison, Wisconsin and the Henry Toll Fellowship program, a national leadership program based in Lexington, Kentucky. In addition, he co-founded and co-chaired the CSG Interbranch Working Group, which works toward improving the relationships among the three branches of state government, and he organized and hosted the national Interbranch Summit of the States in North Dakota in June of 2008. He is the recipient of several awards for his legislative and business achievements, is a guest lecturer in colleges and universities and speaks to community, business, church, legislative, professional and leadership audiences throughout the nation.

Rep. Jeff Morris (Washington) was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1996 where he serves as Speaker Pro Tempore. As CEO of Energy Horizon LLC, Jeff directs the Pacific Northwest Economic Region’s bi-national aggregated energy resource planning, as well as developing distributive generation energy projects. He is a co-founder of Northwest Energy Angels, the first North American angel investing group investing exclusively in new energy technologies. Jeff is a past director of the Northwest Energy Technology Collaborative (NWETC), headquartered at the Washington Technology Center (WTC). Jeff and his team at WTC worked to accelerate growth of the energy-technology industry in the region. The U.S. Department of Energy recognized his achievements by naming him a "West Coast Power Player." The Northwest and Intermountain Power Producers Coalition awarded Jeff the “Vito Stagliano Excellence in Electricity Policy Award.” The award recognizes individuals who have helped advanced innovative public policy within the electricity sector.
Rep. Chris Ross (Pennsylvania) is serving his 7th term in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, where he represents Chester County’s 158th District. Ross serves on the following House committees: Urban Affairs, Chairman; Environmental Resources & Energy. He is also a member of the Local Government Commission. While in the legislature, Ross has served nationally on the Executive Committee of The Council of State Governments, and as Co-Chairman of the Suggested State Legislation Committee. In 2002, Ross was selected as a Toll Fellow, the Council’s national leadership training program. Ross’ legislative accomplishments include drafting and passing the 2004 Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act, which will cause at least 18% of Pennsylvania’s electricity to come from clean and renewable sources between now and 2019. Currently, Ross is working to pass legislation that he sponsored and drafted, which would implement a system in Pennsylvania to require electronic waste recycling.

Rep. Thomas J. Sloan (Kansas, Co-Chair) is serving his eighth term in the Kansas House of Representatives and is Chairman of the Vision 2020 Committee (House “long-range planning committee”), as well as a member of the Energy & Utilities and Government Efficiency & Technology Committees. He is a leading legislative voice on Kansas’ electric, natural gas, telecommunications, and water policies. He is a member of the National Wind Coordinating Committee’s Steering Committee; Vice Chairman, Council of State Government’s Energy & Environment Task Force; member, U.S. Dept. of Energy’s Electricity Advisory Committee; and member of the National Conference of State Legislature’s Environment Committee and its Energy Supply Task Force. Rep. Sloan has organized 12 Summits on renewable energy/transmission lines; reservoir sustainability; rural broadband; and health-care research at which the Chairmen/Commissioners of FERC/FCC; Administrators of NIH/FDA; and Assistant Secretary of the Army joined Kansas and regional stakeholders to promote increased collaboration.