

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 1605

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to fund the construction of the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF) and encouraging the Department of Homeland Security to advance the sale of Plum Island Animal Disease Center and direct the proceeds of the sale to be used to help fund the NBAF.

WHEREAS, When it comes to the critically urgent work of protecting America's food supply, the NBAF offers the only long-term solution to secure the nation's food supply and agricultural economy through integrated biosafety research, testing and evaluation of agricultural and public health threats; and

WHEREAS, Since 2004, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has reported on the defined capability gap in integrated biosafety research, development, testing and evaluation of agricultural and public health threats posed by foreign animal, emerging and zoonotic diseases in large livestock; and

WHEREAS, The NBAF will eliminate the capability gap outlined in 2004 by providing a domestic, modern, integrated high-containment facility containing BioSafety Level (BSL) 2/3/3Ag/4 laboratories for up to 350 scientists and support staff to safely and effectively address the accidental or intentional introduction of animal diseases into the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, DHS implemented an exhaustive three-year selection process that, based on the merits of the site, resulted in the selection of Kansas as the best home for a new research facility to protect the American food supply and agriculture economy. Throughout the review, Kansas was noted for its internationally recognized animal health research expertise, state-of-the-art research and industry infrastructure, and deep agricultural heritage – all of which will significantly enhance research efforts; and

WHEREAS, In January 2009, the Department of Homeland Security sited the NBAF in Manhattan, Kansas on the campus of Kansas State University based upon the unanimous recommendation of a panel of biocontainment experts; and

WHEREAS, In its Record of Decision published in the Federal Register on January 16, 2009, the Department of Homeland Security noted that, "based on the numerous strengths that were evident when evaluating the Manhattan Campus Site against the evaluation criteria, DHS found that this location best met the purpose and need to site, construct and operate the NBAF. Specifically, the site location near KSU provides site proximity to existing research capabilities that can be linked to NBAF mission requirements. Additionally, the site's proximity to the KSU College of Veterinary Medicine, KSU College of Agriculture and the Biosecurity Research Institute is relevant to the NBAF mission and a significant strength."; and

WHEREAS, The bipartisan Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism's October 2009 progress report called the Clock is Ticking defined the critical importance of the NBAF by concluding that bioterrorism is the most imminent threat to our homeland security and called for investment to limit the consequences of a bioweapons attack and improve our nation's capabilities to recognize, respond and recover from such an attack; and

WHEREAS, The State of Kansas recognizes this threat and has committed to partner with the Department of Homeland Security and the United States Department of Agriculture to initiate NBAF related research during the construction of the NBAF to accelerate its critical mission of protecting our nation's agriculture economy; and

WHEREAS, Once construction is completed, the NBAF will serve as the nation's premier research facility for developing vaccines and countermeasures for diseases that threaten livestock and other animals, which agricultural and bioterrorism experts consider an urgent national priority; and

WHEREAS, President Obama's FY 2012 budget requests \$150 million to initiate the construction of the NBAF; and

WHEREAS, The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (P.L. 110-329) requires that, having chosen a site other than Plum Island, New York, the Department of Homeland Security Secretary is to sell Plum Island through the General Services Administration. Proceeds of the sale shall be available for site acquisition, construction and costs related to the construction of the NBAF: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Representatives concurring therein: That we recognize the vital role the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility will play in the future to securing our country from natural and deliberate threats to our food supply, agricultural economy and public health posed by dangerous foreign animal diseases and that we urge the federal government to act aggressively in addressing the threats of bioterrorism; and

Be it further resolved: The construction and operations of the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility must be accelerated to eliminate the capability gap outlined in 2004 by DHS, the 2009 Clock is Ticking report; and provide the research, testing and evaluation necessary to secure the nation's food supply and agricultural economy; and

Be it further resolved: That we urge the United States Congress to support President Obama's budget request of \$150 million to ensure the timely construction and operations of the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility and encourage the Department of Homeland Security and the General Services Administration to move quickly to sell Plum Island and to direct the proceeds to be used to help fund the NBAF; and

Be it further resolved: That copies of this resolution be provided to President Obama and Vice President Biden, Secretary Napolitano of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Secretary Vilsack of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Secretary Sebelius of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate homeland security appropriations subcommittees, the Kansas congressional delegation and Governor Sam Brownback.

I hereby certify that the above CONCURRENT RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.

Adopted by the HOUSE _____

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.