

As Amended by House Committee

Session of 2010

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1625

By Joint Committee on Kansas Security

1-28

10 A RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to fund the con-
11 struction of the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF) and
12 the Department of Homeland Security to advance the sale of Plum
13 Island Animal Disease Center and fully fund.

14
15 WHEREAS, When it comes to the critically urgent work of protecting
16 America's food supply, the NBAF offers the only long-term solution to
17 secure the nation's food supply and agricultural economy through inte-
18 grated biosafety research, testing, and evaluation of agricultural and pub-
19 lic health threats; and

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

25 WHEREAS, The NBAF will eliminate the capability gap outlined in
26 2004 by providing a domestic, modern, integrated high-containment fa-
27 cility containing BioSafety Level (BSL) 2/3/3Ag/4 laboratories for up to
28 350 scientists and support staff to safely and effectively address the ac-
29 cidental or intentional introduction of animal diseases into the United
30 States; and

31 WHEREAS, In 2006, DHS implemented an exhaustive three-year se-
32 lection process that chose Kansas as the best home on the merits for a
33 new research facility to protect the American food supply and agriculture
34 economy. Throughout the review, Kansas was noted for its internationally
35 recognized animal health research expertise, state-of-the-art research and
36 industry infrastructure, and deep agricultural heritage — all of which will
37 significantly accelerate research efforts; and

38 WHEREAS, In January 2009, the Department of Homeland Security
39 sited the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility in Manhattan, Kansas
40 on the campus of Kansas State University based upon the unanimous
41 recommendation of a panel of biocontainment experts; and

42 WHEREAS, In its Record of Decision published in the *Federal Reg-*
43

1 *ister* on January 16, 2009, the Department of Homeland Security noted
2 that, “based on the numerous strengths” that were evident when evalu-
3 ating the Manhattan Campus Site against the evaluation criteria, DHS
4 found that this location best met the purpose and need to site, construct
5 and operate the NBAF. Specifically, the site location near KSU provides
6 site proximity to existing research capabilities that can be linked to NBAF
7 mission requirements. Additionally, the site’s proximity to the KSU Col-
8 lege of Veterinary Medicine, KSU College of Agriculture, and the Bio-
9 security Research Institute is relevant to the NBAF mission and a signif-
10 icant strength; and

11 WHEREAS, The bipartisan Commission on the Prevention of Weap-
12 ons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism’s October 2009 pro-
13 gress report called *The Clock is Ticking* defined the critical importance
14 of the NBAF by concluding that bioterrorism is the most imminent threat
15 to our homeland security and called for investment to limit the conse-
16 quences of a bioweapons attack and improve our nation’s capabilities to
17 recognize, respond and recover from such an attack; and

18 WHEREAS, The State of Kansas recognizes this threat and has com-
19 mitted to partner with the Department of Homeland Security and the
20 United States Department of Agriculture to initiate NBAF related re-
21 search during the construction of the NBAF in order to accelerate its
22 critical mission of protecting our nation’s agriculture economy; and

23 WHEREAS, Once construction is completed, the NBAF will serve as
24 the nation’s premier research facility for developing vaccines and coun-
25 termeasures for diseases that threaten livestock and other animals, which
26 agricultural and bioterrorism experts consider an urgent national priority;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Con-
29 tinuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (P.L. 110-329) requires that, having cho-
30 sen a site other than Plum Island New York, the Department of Home-
31 land Security Secretary is to sell Plum Island through the General
32 Services Administration. Proceeds of the sale shall be available for site
33 acquisition, construction and costs related to the construction of the
34 NBAF: Now, therefore,

35 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Rep-*
36 *resentatives concurring therein:* That we recognize the vital role the Na-
37 tional Bio and Agro-defense Facility will play in the future to securing
38 our country from natural and deliberate threats to our food supply, ag-
39 ricultural economy and public health posed by dangerous foreign animal
40 diseases; that we urge the federal government to act aggressively in ad-
41 dressing the threats of bioterrorism; and

42 *Be it further resolved:* The construction and operations of the National
43 Bio and Agro-defense Facility must be accelerated to eliminate the ca-

1 pability gap outlined in 2004 by DHS, the 2009 *The Clock is Ticking*
2 report, and provide the research, testing, and evaluation necessary to
3 secure the nation's food supply and agricultural economy.

4 *Be it further resolved:* That we urge the United States Congress provide
5 for funding to ensure the timely construction and operations of the Na-
6 tional Bio and Agro-defense Facility and that the Department of Home-
7 land Security and the General Services Administration to move quickly
8 to sell Plum Island; and

9 *Be it further resolved:* That copies of this resolution be provided to
10 President Obama and Vice President Biden, Secretary Napolitano of the
11 U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Secretary Vilsack of the U.S.
12 Department of Agriculture, Secretary Sebelius of the U.S. Department
13 of Health and Human Services, the U.S. House of Representatives and
14 U.S. Senate homeland security appropriations subcommittees, the Kansas
15 congressional delegation and Governor Mark Parkinson.