

CHAPTER 207

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 5009

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION pledging the Kansas Legislature's support for the National Bio and Agrodefense Facility and urging the United States Department of Homeland Security, the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, President Bush, the Kansas Congressional Delegation and others to consider two sites in Kansas as the location for this new federal laboratory.

WHEREAS, Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 has tasked the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate "countermeasure research and development of new methods for detection, prevention technologies, agent characterization, and dose relationships for high-consequence agents;" and

WHEREAS, At present there are no facilities in the United States that have adequate containment, security, equipment and infrastructure to meet the requirements identified in Presidential Directive 9; and

WHEREAS, To meet this need, the Department of Homeland Security and its federal partners initiated plans for a National Bio and Agrodefense Facility (NBAF); and

WHEREAS, The NBAF will enhance protection from both natural and intentional threats by modernizing and integrating high-biosecurity facilities, thus enhancing our nation's capacity to assess potential threats to humans and animals alike; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Homeland Security is seeking a location to build the \$451 million, 500,000 square foot, NBAF facility; and

WHEREAS, The State of Kansas pledges its support for the funding and construction of the NBAF to address the needs of Kansas and the nation to protect human and animal health from both naturally occurring and intentionally introduced disease threats; and

WHEREAS, Kansas is the ideal location for the NBAF. Kansas is a world leader in bioscience, especially in the areas of animal health and vaccines, infectious diseases and food safety, and has an exceptionally well qualified workforce; and

WHEREAS, Two sites in Kansas, one in Manhattan and one in Leavenworth, are actively under consideration by the Department of Homeland Security to site the NBAF facility; and

WHEREAS, The State of Kansas has already demonstrated its strong support for the siting of the NBAF in Kansas, as Governor Kathleen Sebelius and the Kansas Bioscience Authority have taken the initiative to create a task force of prominent industry leaders, public officials, including the entire Kansas Congressional Delegation, representatives from the Kansas Legislature, producer groups and leaders of prominent academic institutions to lead Kansas' bids for the NBAF; and

WHEREAS, The State of Kansas has a long-standing commitment of supporting biosecurity research in partnership with the federal government. Most recently, Kansas and the federal government invested \$54 million in the nation's most modern biosecurity laboratory, the Biosecurity Research Institute at Kansas State University: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein: That the Kansas Legislature pledges its support for Kansas State University, the City of Manhattan and the City of Leavenworth in their bids to site the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Bio and Agrodefense Facility, and that the Legislature commits to do everything in its power and ability to provide any support necessary in order for the NBAF to be constructed in Kansas; and

Be it further resolved: That the Kansas Legislature strongly encourages the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to consider Kansas' existing building and security infrastructure, and the human resources already in place that make Kansas a natural fit for the location of this new federal laboratory; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send enrolled copies of this resolution to President Bush, Vice President Cheney, Secretary Chertoff of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Secretary Johanns of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Secretary Leavitt of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, each member

of the Kansas Congressional Delegation and Governor Kathleen Sebelius.

Adopted by the House February 7, 2007.

Adopted by the Senate February 8, 2007.
