

CHAPTER 188

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 1624

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION pledging the Kansas legislature's support for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility and urging the President of the United States, and other members of the federal executive branch, to consider, seriously and positively, the proposed site in Manhattan, Kansas as the location for this new federal laboratory.

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

WHEREAS, At present no facilities in the United States have adequate containment, security, equipment and infrastructure to meet the requirements identified in HSPD-9; and

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

WHEREAS, The NBAF will enhance protection from both natural and intentional threats by providing and integrating high-biosecurity facilities, thus increasing our nation's capacity to assess potential threats to both human and animal life; and

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

WHEREAS, A site on the campus of Kansas State University is one of six sites actively under consideration by the Department of Homeland Security as possible locations for the NBAF facility; and

WHEREAS, The State of Kansas recognizes the NBAF as a critical national investment and pledges its support for the funding and construction of the NBAF in order 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, particularly in the areas of animal health and vaccines, infectious diseases, and food safety. Kansas also has in place an exceptionally well qualified workforce; and

WHEREAS, In demonstration of their zealous support for locating the NBAF in Kansas, Governor Kathleen Sebelius and the Kansas Bioscience Authority have initiated a task force to lead Kansas' bid for the NBAF. This task force consists 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; and

WHEREAS, The State of Kansas is committed to partnering with the federal government to support biosecurity. As part of this commitment, Kansas - along with 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 Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Representatives concurring therein: That the Kansas legislature pledges its support for Kansas State University and the City of Manhattan, in their bid to have the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility located in Kansas, and that the Legislature underscores its commitment to provide any and all support necessary to ensure the location of the NBAF in Kansas; and

Be it further resolved: That the Kansas Legislature purposefully encourages the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to consider Kansas' demonstrated expertise and experience with research, its existing facilities 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 copies of this resolution be provided to President Bush and Vice President Cheney, Secretary Chertoff of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Secretary Schafer of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Secretary Leavitt of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Kansas congressional delegation and

Governor Kathleen Sebelius.

Adopted by the House March 26, 2008.

Adopted by the Senate March 19, 2008.
