



Since 1894

May 7, 2013

Governor Sam Brownback
300 SW 10th Avenue
Suite 241-S
Topeka, KS 66612-1590

Dear Governor Brownback:

On behalf of the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), I write in support of your request of the Kansas Legislature to authorize an additional \$202 million in bonding authority for the construction of the National Bio and Agro Defense Facility (NBAF). Together with the \$714 million made available in President Barrack Obama's FY 2014 Budget, this enhanced state funding will be sufficient to fully fund the facility's complete construction, including recent safety enhancements to protect against potential release of biologic agents.

With the current Plum Island Animal Disease Center (Plum Island) nearing the end of its useful life, it is imperative plans move forward to replace Plum Island with NBAF to allow this important research to continue at a safer more secure facility. Continued use of Plum Island limits current research and diagnostic capabilities and increases the risk of an accidental release of a biologic agent.

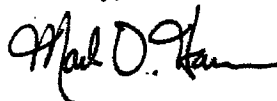
NBAF will be a state-of-the-art facility equipped to conduct world-class research, develop vaccines and antiviral therapies, and train veterinarians and public health officials on foreign animal and zoonotic diseases. When completed, it will offer opportunities for integrated research, development, testing and evaluation of technologies and tools that will provide critical solutions to address both naturally-occurring and deliberate bio-threats against agriculture and public health. Furthermore, NBAF will assist in keeping the American livestock industry competitive and maintain our position as a world leader in advanced diagnostic capabilities. With inclusion of the necessary safety protocols, location of NBAF in Manhattan, Kansas can provide more a rapid diagnosis and response to contain potential animal disease outbreaks and bioterrorism events.

As plans for NBAF have progressed, KLA has stressed the importance of safety in the design and construction of the facility. All reasonable safeguards should be incorporated into the facility to prevent the accidental or intentional release of disease agents contained within the facility. Appropriate funding is essential to allow proper design and construction. That is why KLA supports your request for additional bonding authority that will fund additional security measures recommended in reports by the National Academy of Sciences and the Government Accountability Office.

The security of America's food supply and agriculture economy is of paramount importance, not only to livestock producers but also to every U.S. citizen. Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 outlined the policy imperative of defending the agriculture and food system against terrorist attacks. The urgency of this policy has been further highlighted by the bipartisan Commission on the Prevention of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism, which found the potential for biological threat to be more imminent than nuclear weapon threats. For these reasons, we are glad to see this final push at both the state and federal levels for fully funding construction of the NBAF.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that completion of NBAF occurs with the best bio-security measures available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark O. Harms". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark O. Harms
President