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Governor Sam Brownback
Kansas State House
300 SW 10th Avenue, Suite 241
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Governor:

The Kansas Veterinary Medical Association represents the Kansas veterinary profession through legislative, regulatory, educational, communications and public awareness programs.

The KVMA gratefully acknowledges the significant financial commitment the Kansas Legislature has made to the National Bio-and Agro-Defense Facility at Kansas State University. KVMA members respectfully request and strongly encourage the Legislature to provide the additional \$202 million required to meet Kansas' 20 per cent of the total cost.

The selection of the site for a new National Bio-and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) and its location in Manhattan was the result of a lengthy and arduous process conducted by Congress, the Department of Homeland Security and numerous other federal and state agencies and entities and confirms America's dedication to the safety of animal agriculture and public health.

NBAF will be the safest and most secure facility of its kind anywhere. It will be capable of studying foreign and emerging animal and zoonotic diseases that would place America's public safety and the nation's and state's agricultural economies in severe jeopardy.

Kansas veterinarians, agricultural interests and individual farmers and ranchers readily understand the necessity to continue with this crucial project. Existing facilities are too small and antiquated and are not capable of handling research on foreign and emerging animal and zoonotic diseases at the BSL-4 containment level that NBAF will feature.

Another extremely worthwhile outcome from the NBAF commitment is the huge positive impact it will have on Kansas employment, payroll, spending, and tax revenue from the increased number of jobs added by the facility itself and related animal health companies looking to partner with NBAF and strengthen the Animal Health Corridor presence in Manhattan.

Once again, the KVMA respectfully requests the Kansas Legislature continue on its progressive, far-sighted path and provide the additional \$202 million to meet Kansas' NBAF commitment.

Yours very truly

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Jernigan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Jernigan, DVM
KVMA President

Senate Ways and Means Committee
Date: 05-08-2013
Attachment #: _____