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JAMES A. HEETER
President and
Chief Executive Officer

The Honorable Governor Sam Brownback
Kansas State Capitol, Second Floor
300 S.W. Tenth Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612

May 6, 2013

Dear Governor Brownback:

I am writing on behalf of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce to confirm the KC Chamber's support for \$202 million in state bonds for funding the National Bio-Agro Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan. The KC Chamber believes NBAF presents an unparalleled opportunity to attract new employers, create high-paying jobs, and boost related industries throughout Kansas and the greater Kansas City region.

In addition to the projected 300 new jobs NBAF will create in Kansas, the lab will attract support industries, other laboratories and suppliers to the region. Experience tells us that many of these auxiliary companies will locate in the two-state Kansas City metropolitan area for access to transportation and other related agencies such as MRI Global and Bayer Animal Health. Kansas City is at the heart of the Animal Health Corridor and the strength of our region's existing animal health businesses combined with opportunities resulting from NBAF, will create a valuable attraction for our metro area.

As you know, The KC Chamber has been a long term supporter of NBAF in Kansas and hosted several of the early business community meetings and briefings for the project. We continue to advocate for policy, funding and other measures to advance animal health research in our metropolitan area and believe NBAF is the key component that will bring this industry to its full economic development potential for our bi-state region. Thank you for your leadership on the NBAF initiative.

Sincerely,

James A. Heeter
President and CEO

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