

Statement for the Record
By
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On
SB 184
Kansas Senate Judiciary Committee
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Thank you, members of the Judiciary Committee. I am James V. Johnson, Director of the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility Program Executive Office (NBAF PEO), U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). I am providing this written statement today to describe the relationship between the NBAF PEO as it currently stands and as we see it performing once NBAF construction is completed and the research mission has begun.

The Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center (KIFC) and the NBAF PEO are in the process of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding to allow the sharing of information between the two programs. As a national asset it is important for the NBAF program to understand threats and risks to America's agricultural enterprise and public health. The MOU with the KIFC ensures information sharing from international, national, and state level sources so that threats can be identified and risks can be appropriately managed for both NBAF and the State of Kansas.

While it is currently anticipated that the research performed at NBAF will not be classified, in order to support and protect this facility and its mission, the ability to receive, exchange, and discuss information at classified levels may be required. A primary source for threat information is the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center. KIFC operates in three domains, each relevant to operations at NBAF; counter terrorism, bio terrorism, and counter intel/cyber security. KIFC is able to communicate at classified levels.

A relationship between KIFC and NBAF would allow public health and the law enforcement community to efficiently work together to more comprehensively identify, assess, and mitigate such threats using a wide array of resources. For reference, the Kansas Biothreat Working Group has achieved great success bringing together law enforcement, intelligence, and public health personnel on a regular basis to candidly discuss areas of common interest. The discussion meshes new and emerging areas of public health concerns in Kansas and the Nation with threat reporting, facilitating our ability to identify areas of potential vulnerability to our facility and/or research. I thank you, members of the Kansas Senate Judiciary Committee, for allowing me to submit this written statement.