

Approved: April 30, 2010

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lee Tafanelli at 12:00 noon on March 29, 2010, in Room 142-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Scott Wells, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Aaron Klaassen, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Gina Bowes, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dr. James Guikema, Associate Vice President for Research, Kansas State University

Others attending:

See attached list.

- Attachment 1 Overview of **SCR 1625**
- Attachment 2 Testimony of Dr. James Guikema, Associate Vice President for Research, Kansas State University
- Attachment 3 Handout from Sue Peterson, Assistant to the President of Kansas State University, Director of Governmental Relations, "Prevention of WMD Proliferation and Terrorism Report Card"

Hearing and action on SCR 1625 - Concurrent Resolution by Joint Committee on Kansas Security urging the federal government to act aggressively in addressing the threats of bioterrorism and to move quickly to advance the sale of Plum Island

Scott Wells, Revisor, explained **SCR 1625 (Attachment 1)** was requested by the Joint Committee on Kansas Security which explains the story of the National Bio and Ago-defense Facility (NBAF). NBAF is a high security laboratory and research facility whose mission will be to research and develop counter measures to animal, human and zoologic diseases such as foot and mouth disease and avian flu. NBAF will replace the current facility on Plum Island known as the Plum Island Animal Disease Center which currently conducts such research today. The Plum Island facility is an aging facility and has been deemed inadequate to meet modern requirements. In January 2009, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) named Manhattan, Kansas, as the future location of the NBAF. Since New York was not chosen as the future site for NBAF, the Department of Homeland Security Secretary is required to sell Plum Island through General Services Administration. Proceeds of the sale shall be available for site acquisition, construction and costs related to the construction of the NBAF. NBAF is expected to be fully operational in 2015. Additionally, in the last two years the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism, (**Attachment 2**) which the bipartisan Commission established by Congress, has published two reports addressing the threats that can be posed to the United States. In these reports the Commission found that there was a high probability that terrorists would use a weapon of mass destruction before the end of 2013 and that more than likely the weapon will be biological rather than nuclear.

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Revisor Wells stood for questions.

Chairman Tafanelli recognized Dr. James Guikema, proponent for **SCR 1625**.

Dr. Guikema, Associate Vice President for Research at Kansas State University (KSU), presented testimony in support of **SCR 1625 (Attachment 3)**. Dr. Guikema stated they are currently working to remove and relocate the University facilities on the NBAF site so they can turn the site over to the DHS by September 2010, at which time DHS will begin construction of the central utility plant. The construction of the plant is to begin when funds become available from Congress, with plans for construction to begin in Fiscal Year 2012 and completion slated for 2015.

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Dr. Guikema stated KSU has partnered with the Midwest Research Institute and are coordinating a plan to enable NBAF-related research to begin before the 2015 completion date. This research will allow the government to begin working sooner to keep the nations's disease threats at bay. Dr. Guikema presented visual aids of the NBAF facility.

Dr. Guikema stood for questions.

Representative Swanson raised a question regarding the sale of Plum Island and whether it was currently being used as a research facility. Dr. Guikema stated Plum Island will still be used as a research facility until the new facility in Manhattan, Kansas, is constructed. He further explained that once the construction of the NBAF facility is completed in Kansas the sale and demolition of the Plum Island facility would be accomplished.

Representative Quigley raised a question regarding the funding for the NBAF facility. Dr. Guikema noted that there was an appropriation of \$36 million from the federal government toward this project for design purposes with \$5 million of that amount going toward construction. He also indicated that the release of \$5 million toward construction is pending a site specific risk assessment which has been contracted to Homeland Security and should be completed during the summer. The risk assessment will go through a chain of reporting, with the final report going to the Chair of the Secretary of Homeland Security at which time the \$5 million going toward construction will be released. Dr. Guikema stated current plans are a reprogramming in this year's budget of \$40 million that will be matched with Kansas Cost Share, in which the University of Kansas, along with the city of Manhattan will share costs of the central utility plant. Upon further questioning, Dr. Guikema provided an account of the funding along with state and local authority sources affiliated with Kansas Cost Share.

In response to Chairman Tapanelli's inquiry regarding research prior to actual construction outlined in the transition plan, Dr. Guikema explained that the primary user of the facility is the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), who supports a large amount of research. He further explained that the USDA has a strong partnership between KSU and the Biotechnology Research Institute (BRI) with the ongoing research at Plum Island. Leadership from the USDA and DHS gathered in Manhattan to discuss the research transition plan, and both are fully supportive of the plan's objective to begin research prior to the actual construction.

Representative Swanson asked what the implications were regarding attracting company relocation to Kansas as a result of the NBAF construction and if actual relocation had occurred. Dr. Guikema stated there have been expressions of interest from other companies regarding relocating to Kansas and that the Arthropod-Borne Animal Disease Research Unit, (ABADRU) currently located in Laramie, Wyoming, is currently in transition in moving from Laramie, Wyoming to Manhattan, Kansas.

Chairman Tapanelli asked if there were other proponents or opponents for the bill. Seeing none, Chairman Tapanelli closed the hearing on **SCR 1625**. Chairman Tapanelli stated it was his intent for the Committee to take action on **SCR 1625**.

Revisor Wells stated that if it was the Chairman's intent to take action on the bill he would like revisor discretion to fix the language in line 12 where there could possibly be a printer's error.

Representative Pottorff made a motion to move SCR 1625 with a favorable recommendation. The motion was seconded by Representative Finney. The motion was carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Tapanelli stated this meeting concludes the business of the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

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Post meeting notation: Revisor Wells later indicated the error that he mentioned in Committee was something that will be amended in the Committee report. The words "and fully fund" will be stricken in line 12 on page 1.

