

## Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1605

By Senators Morris, Emler, Vratil, Abrams, Apple, Bruce, Brungardt, Faust-Goudeau, Francisco, Haley, Hensley, Holland, Huntington, Kelly, Kelsey, King, Kultala, Longbine, Love, Lynn, Marshall, Masterson, McGinn, Merrick, Olson, Ostmeyer, Owens, Petersen, Pilcher-Cook, Pyle, Reitz, A. Schmidt, V. Schmidt, Schodorf, Taddiken, Teichman, Umbarger and Wagle

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1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to  
2 fund the construction of the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility  
3 (NBAF) and encouraging the Department of Homeland Security to  
4 advance the sale of Plum Island Animal Disease Center and direct the  
5 proceeds of the sale to be used to help fund the NBAF.

6 *WHEREAS, When it comes to the critically urgent work of*  
7 *protecting America's food supply, the NBAF offers the only long-term*  
8 *solution to secure the nation's food supply and agricultural economy*  
9 *through integrated biosafety research, testing and evaluation of*  
10 *agricultural and public health threats; and*

11 *WHEREAS, Since 2004, the Department of Homeland Security*  
12 *(DHS) has reported on the defined capability gap in integrated biosafety*  
13 *research, development, testing and evaluation of agricultural and public*  
14 *health threats posed by foreign animal, emerging and zoonotic diseases*  
15 *in large livestock; and*

16 *WHEREAS, The NBAF will eliminate the capability gap outlined*  
17 *in 2004 by providing a domestic, modern, integrated high-containment*  
18 *facility containing BioSafety Level (BSL) 2/3/Ag/4 laboratories for up to*  
19 *350 scientists and support staff to safely and effectively address the*  
20 *accidental or intentional introduction of animal diseases into the United*  
21 *States; and*

22 *WHEREAS, In 2006, DHS implemented an exhaustive three-year*  
23 *selection process that, based on the merits of the site, resulted in the*  
24 *selection of Kansas as the best home for a new research facility to protect*  
25 *the American food supply and agriculture economy. Throughout the*  
26 *review, Kansas was noted for its internationally recognized animal health*  
27 *research expertise, state-of-the-art research and industry infrastructure,*  
28 *and deep agricultural heritage – all of which will significantly enhance*  
29 *research efforts; and*

30 *WHEREAS, In January 2009, the Department of Homeland*  
31 *Security sited the NBAF in Manhattan, Kansas on the campus of Kansas*  
32 *State University based upon the unanimous recommendation of a panel*  
33 *of biocontainment experts; and*

1           *WHEREAS, In its Record of Decision published in the Federal*  
2 *Register on January 16, 2009, the Department of Homeland Security*  
3 *noted that, "based on the numerous strengths that were evident when*  
4 *evaluating the Manhattan Campus Site against the evaluation criteria,*  
5 *DHS found that this location best met the purpose and need to site,*  
6 *construct and operate the NBAF. Specifically, the site location near KSU*  
7 *provides site proximity to existing research capabilities that can be linked*  
8 *to NBAF mission requirements. Additionally, the site's proximity to the*  
9 *KSU College of Veterinary Medicine, KSU College of Agriculture and the*  
10 *Biosecurity Research Institute is relevant to the NBAF mission and a*  
11 *significant strength.";* and

12           *WHEREAS, The bipartisan Commission on the Prevention of*  
13 *Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism's October*  
14 *2009 progress report called the Clock is Ticking defined the critical*  
15 *importance of the NBAF by concluding that bioterrorism is the most*  
16 *imminent threat to our homeland security and called for investment to*  
17 *limit the consequences of a bioweapons attack and improve our nation's*  
18 *capabilities to recognize, respond and recover from such an attack;* and

19           *WHEREAS, The State of Kansas recognizes this threat and has*  
20 *committed to partner with the Department of Homeland Security and the*  
21 *United States Department of Agriculture to initiate NBAF related*  
22 *research during the construction of the NBAF to accelerate its critical*  
23 *mission of protecting our nation's agriculture economy;* and

24           *WHEREAS, Once construction is completed, the NBAF will serve*  
25 *as the nation's premier research facility for developing vaccines and*  
26 *countermeasures for diseases that threaten livestock and other animals,*  
27 *which agricultural and bioterrorism experts consider an urgent national*  
28 *priority;* and

29           *WHEREAS, President Obama's FY 2012 budget requests \$150*  
30 *million to initiate the construction of the NBAF;* and

31           *WHEREAS, The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and*  
32 *Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (P.L. 110-329) requires that, having*  
33 *chosen a site other than Plum Island, New York, the Department of*  
34 *Homeland Security Secretary is to sell Plum Island through the General*  
35 *Services Administration. Proceeds of the sale shall be available for site*  
36 *acquisition, construction and costs related to the construction of the*  
37 *NBAF: Now, therefore,*

38           *Be it resolved by the Senate of the state of Kansas, the House of*  
39 *Representatives concurring therein: That we recognize the vital role the*  
40 *National Bio and Agro-defense Facility will play in the future to securing*  
41 *our country from natural and deliberate threats to our food supply,*  
42 *agricultural economy and public health posed by dangerous foreign*  
43 *animal diseases and that we urge the federal government to act*

1 *aggressively in addressing the threats of bioterrorism; and*

2 *Be it further resolved: The construction and operations of the*  
3 *National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility must be accelerated to eliminate*  
4 *the capability gap outlined in 2004 by DHS, the 2009 Clock is Ticking*  
5 *report; and provide the research, testing and evaluation necessary to*  
6 *secure the nation's food supply and agricultural economy; and*

7 *Be it further resolved: That we urge the United States Congress to*  
8 *support President Obama's budget request of \$150 million to ensure the*  
9 *timely construction and operations of the National Bio and Agro-Defense*  
10 *Facility and encourage the Department of Homeland Security and the*  
11 *General Services Administration to move quickly to sell Plum Island and*  
12 *to direct the proceeds to be used to help fund the NBAF; and*

13 *Be it further resolved: That copies of this resolution be provided to*  
14 *President Obama and Vice President Biden, Secretary Napolitano of the*  
15 *U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Secretary Vilsack of the U.S.*  
16 *Department of Agriculture, Secretary Sebelius of the U.S. Department of*  
17 *Health and Human Services, the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S.*  
18 *Senate homeland security appropriations subcommittees, the Kansas*  
19 *congressional delegation and Governor Sam Brownback.*

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