

SESSION OF 2007

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5009**

As Recommended by House Committee on
Taxation

Brief*

HCR 5009 would pledge the Legislature's support for the National Bio and Agrodefense Facility (NBAF) and urge various federal agencies, the President, and the Kansas congressional delegation to consider two sites in Kansas as the location for the new federal laboratory.

The concurrent resolution notes that:

- A Presidential directive has charged the Department of Homeland Security with coordinating "countermeasure research and development of new methods for detection, prevention technologies, agent characterization, and dose relationships for high-consequence agents";
- There are currently no facilities in the country with adequate containment, security, equipment, and infrastructure to meet the requirements of the directive;
- The federal government has therefore initiated plans for the NBAF, which would enhance protection from both natural and intentional threats by modernizing and integrating high-biosecurity facilities;
- The Department of Homeland Security is seeking a location to build a \$451 million, 500,000 square foot, NBAF facility;
- Kansas pledges support for the NBAF project, which would address the needs of the state and the nation to protect human and animal health from various disease threats;
- Kansas is the ideal location for the NBAF, since the state has an exceptionally well qualified workforce and is a world leader in

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

bioscience, especially in the areas of animal health and vaccines, and infectious diseases and food safety.

- Two sites in Kansas, one in Manhattan and one in Leavenworth, are actively under federal consideration for the NBAF site;
- Kansas has already demonstrated its strong support for locating the NBAF in Kansas, as Governor Sebelius and the Kansas Bioscience Authority have created a task force of prominent industry leaders, public officials, producer groups, and leaders of prominent academic institutions to lead Kansas' efforts to acquire the NBAF;
- Kansas has a long-standing commitment of supporting biosecurity research in partnership with the federal government.

The concurrent resolution, therefore, would pledge the Legislature's support for Kansas State University, the City of Manhattan, and the City of Leavenworth in their bids to acquire the NBAF facility; and express the Legislature's commitment to do everything in its power and ability to provide the support necessary for the facility to be constructed in Kansas.

The Legislature further would strongly encourage the Department of Homeland Security to consider the state's existing building and security infrastructure, as well as the human resources already in place that make Kansas a natural fit for the location of this new federal laboratory.

The Kansas Secretary of State would be directed to send enrolled copies of the concurrent resolution to the President, Vice President, various federal officials, each member of the Kansas congressional delegation, and the Governor.

Background

Senator Pat Roberts addressed a joint session of the Kansas Legislature about the importance of the NBAF facility on February 5.