

SENATE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Stephen R. Morris

President of the Kansas Senate
Senator, 39th District
State Capitol, Room 333-E
Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 296-2419



STATE OF KANSAS

Committee Assignments:

Chairman:
Interstate Cooperation Committee
Legislative Coordinating Council
Organization, Calendar and Rules
NCSL Chair of Standing Committees

Member:
Capitol Restoration Commission
Federal and State Affairs
Natural Resources
Pensions, Investments and Benefits
State Finance Council
CSG Executive Committee
The Energy Council Executive Committee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media contact:

Patti Van Slyke, Communications Director
Senate President's Office 785.296.2419
785.215.9621 (cell)

Senate Leadership Supports National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility and Prepares for Meetings with Congressional Leaders

Washington, D.C.: After last week passing a Kansas Senate Resolution urging construction of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan, Kansas, Kansas Senate President Steve Morris, R-Hugoton, and Senate Democratic Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka, are part of a Kansas delegation in Washington meeting with key Congressional Leaders to underscore Kansas' commitment to the project and to encourage full funding in the federal budget.

"The National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility is a critical federal investment to protect American agriculture, and this is the third year Kansas Legislative Leaders, the Governor and the Kansas Bioscience Authority have met with key representatives from the Department of Homeland Security and Congressional Committees to reiterate our support for this vital project," said Senate President Steve Morris.

State Legislative leaders including Morris, Hensley, Speaker Mike O'Neal, and House Democratic Leader Paul Davis are in Washington, D.C. for meetings with the Kansas congressional delegation and key homeland security appropriations leaders to urge support for the President's \$150 million budget request for the NBAF to initiate construction of the facility in FY 2012.

"The construction of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility is about protecting our nation's agriculture economy, but it's also about jobs and our state's economic vitality for many years to

come,” Hensley said. “Once fully operational, the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility will attract and retain highly educated, well-paid workers and be an economic engine that will pay dividends for generations of Kansans.”

When constructed, the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility will be a highly secure biosecurity level 3 and 4 facility on the Kansas State University campus where top government scientists and researchers will study of foreign animal, emerging and zoonotic (transmitted from animals to humans) diseases that threaten the U.S. animal agriculture and public health. National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility will provide and strengthen our nation with critical capabilities to conduct research, develop vaccines and other countermeasures, and train veterinarians in preparedness and response against these diseases.

The National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility will replace an antiquated facility in New York and serve as the nation’s premier research center for combating agriculture’s vulnerability to naturally occurring diseases or agro-terrorism.

Beyond its immediate scope and responsibility to protect our nation’s food supply, the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility is seen as a major economic driver for the State of Kansas. Starting with the construction of the \$650 million facility and continuing with the ongoing employment of a highly educated workforce, the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility’s economic impact on Kansas will be significant, estimated at up to \$3.5 billion in the first 20 years of the facility’s use. Additionally, the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility will serve as a magnet for private industry. It will attract new jobs to Kansas as private biotechnology companies, professionals, and support infrastructure align to capitalize on the concentration of animal health and plant science assets in the state.

To learn more about the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility visit www.nbafinkansas.org.

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(Please note: copy of resolution attached to email as a pdf)