

## MINUTES

### JOINT COMMITTEE ON KANSAS SECURITY

February 5, 2007  
Room 514-S—Statehouse

#### Members Present

Representative Mario Goico, Chairman  
Senator Jay Emler, Vice-Chairman  
Senator Jim Barone  
Senator Nick Jordan  
Senator Carolyn McGinn  
Representative Pat George  
Representative Judith Loganbill  
Representative Julie Menghini  
Representative Lee Tafanelli

#### Member Absent

Senator Chris Steineger

#### Staff Present

Alan Conroy, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Amy VanHouse, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Ann McMorris, Committee Secretary

#### Conferees

Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Dr. Jon Wefald, President, Kansas State University  
Dr. Clay Blair, Chairman, Kansas Bioscience Authority  
Tom Thornton, President and CEO, Kansas Bioscience Authority  
Dr. Ron Trewyn, Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, Kansas State University  
Laura Janas Gasbarre, Mayor, City of Leavenworth  
Ron Fehr, City Manager, City of Manhattan

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Goico at 12:30 p.m., on February 5, 2007, in Room 514-S of the Statehouse.

Chairman Goico announced informational briefings were being held on:

- **HCR 5009** - National Bio and Agro Defense Facility (NBAF).
- **HB 2303** - Creation of the Kansas national bio and agro defense facility interagency working group.
- **SB 252** - Kansas State University, conveyance of land for national bio and agro defense facility to Department of Homeland Security.

Chairman Goico noted NBAF is vitally important to the defense of our nation and would have a tremendous impact on Kansas if a Kansas site was chosen. No detailed information is available at this time. February 16, 2007 is the deadline for applications.

Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department, summarized the three bills regarding the NBAF as follows:

- **HB 2303** is the Kansas National Bio and Agro Defense Facility Interagency Working Group Act. The bill would create an interagency working group to support and assist the United States Department of Homeland Security in the National Environmental Policy Act process to conduct an environmental impact statement on any site in Kansas selected by the Department of Homeland Security for the location of a NBAF. The Secretary of Health and Environment would serve as chairperson, with a number of state agency heads or their designees serving as ex-officio members of the group. The House Committee on Appropriations amended the bill to include the Adjutant General and the Livestock Commissioner as ex-officio members. The act would expire upon either completion of the facility or the elimination of all potential Kansas sites from consideration.
- **SB 252** would allow for the timely transfer to the federal government of state-owned land on the Kansas State University campus if Manhattan was chosen as the location for the new research facility.
- **HCR 5009** is a resolution pledging the support of the Kansas Legislature for NBAF and urging consideration of the two sites in Kansas as the location for NBAF.

Dr. Jon Wefald, President, Kansas State University, was very enthusiastic about consideration of Manhattan for the National Bio and Agro Defense Facility. He provided information that was presented as testimony in October 1999 before the U.S. Senate's Emerging Threats Subcommittee and indicated this topic is not a new one. He emphasized that terrorists are a major threat to the food supply in the United States. He summarized the reasons to choose Kansas as the NBAF site, provided factual information, and reviewed the proposed timeline ([Attachment 1](#)).

Dr. Clay Blair, Chairman of Kansas Bioscience Authority, stressed the importance to the State of Kansas of NBAF and efforts of the Kansas Bioscience Authority as an advocate. He recognized the unique federal-state partnership that is involved. NBAF represents an opportunity to secure a federal laboratory in Kansas in a research area in which the state has internationally recognized strengths. He explained the aggressive plan the Kansas Bioscience Authority has developed to be awarded the project ([Attachment 2](#)).

Tom Thornton, President and CEO, Kansas Bioscience Authority (KBA), emphasized six points: (1) NBAF is a critical national investment; (2) Kansas is well positioned to bid on the project; (3) KBA's efforts to advocate for the project; (4) Economic impact of NBAF in Kansas; (5) Timeline and next steps; and (6) Legislation required to bid for NBAF. In summary: NBAF is a critical federal research and development investment that Kansas should aggressively pursue (Attachment 3).

Dr. Ron Trewyn, Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, Kansas State University, spoke of the benefits to Kansas in economic development and in business and educational fields. He reviewed NBAF from a KSU perspective and commented favorably on the three pieces of legislation (Attachment 4).

United States Senator Pat Roberts had appeared early in the day before a joint meeting of the House and Senate to call for unity and support of all legislators and Kansans in seeking the NBAF. Members of Congress Jerry Moran (Attachment 5) and Nancy Boyda (Attachment 6) sent their expressions of support.

Laura Janas Gasbarre, Mayor, City of Leavenworth, spoke on behalf of the Heartland Bio Agro Consortium's proposal and the possibility of attracting the facility to Kansas and perhaps Leavenworth. She provided a map of the proposed Leavenworth site location (Attachment 7).

Ron Fehr, City Manager, City of Manhattan, offered Manhattan's support for this project.

The Committee recommended that a letter be written setting forth the Committee's unanimous support, and it should be signed by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Ranking Minority Member and distributed to every member of the Senate and House of Representatives (Attachment 8).

*Moved by Representative Tapanelli, seconded by Representative Loganbill, the Committee recommends that SB 252 be unanimously endorsed. Motion carried.*

*Motion by Representative Tapanelli, seconded by Senator Barone, the Committee recommends that HB 2303 be unanimously endorsed. Motion carried.*

*Moved by Representative Tapanelli, seconded by Senator Jordan, the Committee recommends that HCR 5009 be unanimously endorsed. Motion carried.*

Prepared by Ann McMorris  
Edited by Amy VanHouse

Approved by Committee on:

April 3, 2007