



May 7, 2013

Honorable Sam Brownback  
(via electronic mail)  
Governor of Kansas  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 241-S  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1590

Re: Funding for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility

Dear Governor Brownback:

The Overland Park Chamber of Commerce commends you for your leadership and commitment to the building of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan, Kansas. Though this state-of-the-art research facility is to be located 125 miles away from Overland Park, the Chamber supports the federal/state cost-share proposal for NBAF's construction that you have presented to the Legislature for approval in the 2013 veto session because of its importance to the entire state.

The OP Chamber has been a long-standing supporter of public policies at both the state and federal levels to improve the competitive position of Kansas in the life sciences industry. Our Federal Public Policy Platform calls for supportive legislation and adequate funding for both NBAF and the advancement of the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor.

The KC Animal Health Corridor includes companies that account for nearly 32% of total sales in the \$19 billion global animal health market. Many of these businesses are located in Johnson County, and they have benefited from the research collaboration, legislative advocacy and networking the Corridor provides. The Corridor's sales numbers and economic impact on our state and region are sure to rise when coupled with the research expenditures

Senate Ways and Means Committee  
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at NBAF, further solidifying our region's position as the global research center for agriculture and animal science.

We believe that the construction of NBAF is another valuable tool in our economic development tool chest. In Johnson County we have relied upon a simple formula for many decades to attract and retain businesses. In return for a balanced tax structure we have delivered as part of a comprehensive quality of life amenities package a high quality K-12 and post-secondary education system, a reliable transportation infrastructure, and low crime rates. Residents and business leaders tell us they value public investment in infrastructure that delivers a return on investment. At the Chamber we believe that just as investments in public education and roads deliver a return in qualified workforces, low commute times and job creation, so too will investment in NBAF lead to prosperity in Kansas. NBAF should bring the attraction of high quality talent, new jobs through commercialization of research and attraction of ancillary businesses, and increased national safety in the bio and agro-defense arenas.

The Overland Park Chamber supports NBAF as a strategic economic development opportunity for Kansas.

Sincerely,

OVERLAND PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tracey Osborne".

Tracey Osborne, CCE

President