



KANSAS CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address SB 245. KCA opposes funding the federal National Bio & Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) project by the state of Kansas, and KCA would encourage you to vote no on SB 245.

There are many valid concerns as it pertains to the NBAF project. The financial commitment to NBAF has almost tripled over the course of three years without any progress to the construction of the site. Kansas has previously committed \$105 million and has already allocated \$75 million. As the costs rise, the people of Kansas should not be required to pay for a federal project that has provided no return.

The Kansas legislature has been tasked with creating a budget for the state and is charged with making a number of cuts to important agencies and programs to include education. The Kansas economy is soft, and KCA asks that you not throw hundreds of millions of taxpayers' dollars into a facility that could devastate the largest economic contributor to the state, the agriculture industry.

KCA is very concerned with the construction of the NBAF. KCA supports bio-defense research; however, KCA has long opposed having a NBAF in the heart of cattle country. Although the site location has been approved by Congress, KCA contends that there has been a lack of oversight on both the state and national level regarding this project. The Kansas Bioscience Authority, a publicly-funded initiative, was put in place to promote among other things, the facility and high paying bioscience jobs in Kansas. Instead, the agency misused taxpayer funds, destroyed documents, and confirmed improper conduct by its leaders. As national security is an important aspect of the facility, this type of behavior and lack of oversight is not acceptable to groups such as KCA.

The people of Kansas are relying on you for that oversight. We ask that you remove all state funding for NBAF and allow our state prosper without additional deficit and costs to the people who make this a great state to live.

Best Regards,

Brandy Carter
CEO
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Senate Ways and Means Committee

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