



2022 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Concurrent Resolution 606

Introduced by: **Senator Frye-Mueller**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, urging the highest levels of safety and oversight in**
2 **the operation of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility.**

3 WHEREAS, the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility currently being constructed in
4 Manhattan, Kansas, will be a state-of-the-art biocontainment laboratory for the study of
5 diseases that threaten America's animal agriculture industry and public health; and

6 WHEREAS, the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility will be designated as a biosafety
7 level 4 facility, which requires the highest level of biosafety precautions, in order to perform
8 diagnostic work and research on easily transmitted pathogens that can cause fatal disease;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility is expected to be operational in
11 2022-23 and will then replace the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, which is located off the
12 coast of Long Island, New York; and

13 WHEREAS, the plan to construct the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility has been
14 controversial from the time it was unveiled, due to allegedly flawed cost assessments and risk
15 assessments; and

16 WHEREAS, upon completion, laboratory contents from Plum Island will be transferred half-
17 way across the country, into the heartland of American agriculture; and

18 WHEREAS, these laboratory contents are believed to include highly infectious and
19 dangerous pathogens, such as the viruses that cause swine fever and foot and mouth disease,
20 and deadly pathogens that are transmittable from animals to humans and for which there is
21 no treatment; and

22 WHEREAS, conducting such research in close proximity to susceptible wildlife and the
23 epicenter of the American livestock industry increases exponentially the risks associated with

1 an accidental or intentional pathogen release, which could result in immeasurable financial
2 impacts to the livestock industry and an unprecedented loss of human life:

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninety-Seventh Legislature of
4 the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that because the
5 National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility is a federal facility, the Legislature urges the South
6 Dakota congressional delegation and their counterparts from other heartland agricultural
7 states to pursue all statutory, regulatory, or judicial measures necessary to prohibit any effort
8 by or on the part of the facility to obtain, transport, or conduct research involving any of the
9 highly contagious livestock viruses, including foot and mouth disease and swine fever, which
10 could jeopardize food security for millions of people and multiple years; and that, with respect
11 to all other research, demand that the facility be operated only under the most stringent level
12 of safety and security; that there be rigorous oversight regarding the nature and type of work
13 being conducted at the facility; that appropriate plans be developed to immediately mitigate
14 the devastating personal and financial consequences of any accidental or intentional
15 pathogenic release; and that an annual report be provided to the Governor, the Legislature,
16 and the people of this state, regarding compliance with these matters and other operational
17 aspects of the facility that might negatively impact the safety and wellbeing of South
18 Dakotans.

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