

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 373

Recognizing the importance of biosecurity and agro-defense in the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 5, 2014

Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BLUNT, and Mrs. McCASKILL)
submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of biosecurity and agro-defense
in the United States.

Whereas following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks,
the United States increased its efforts to combat the
threat of global terrorism;

Whereas the September 11th attacks illustrated the vulner-
ability of the food supply and agriculture economy of the
United States;

Whereas in 2002, Congress created the Department of
Homeland Security to improve the Government's ability
to respond to threats facing the United States;

Whereas the Department of Homeland Security, in partner-
ship with the Department of Agriculture, was quick to
recognize the threat posed by agroterrorism;

Whereas on January 30, 2004, President George W. Bush issued a Homeland Security Presidential Directive entitled “Defense of United States Agriculture and Food”;

Whereas the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism stated in a 2008 report that bioterrorism was a more likely threat to the United States than nuclear terrorism, and higher priority should therefore be given to efforts to combat bioterrorism;

Whereas the threat of a terrorist attack on the United States persists, and continued vigilance is necessary; and

Whereas construction of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility began on May 28, 2013: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) as the United States combats terrorism in
3 all forms and around the world, the safety, security,
4 and health of our livestock and agriculture commod-
5 ities must not be forgotten;

6 (2) research and investment in biosecurity and
7 agro-defense should be supported by Congress;

8 (3) providing the resources, both intellectually
9 and materially, for the advancement of vaccines and
10 cures for deadly pathogens and emerging zoonotic
11 diseases is an integral part of homeland defense;

12 (4) without the tools necessary to protect the
13 people, agriculture economy, and food supply of the
14 United States, this Nation remains vulnerable to at-
15 tack;

1 (5) the world depends on the agriculture of the
2 United States;

3 (6) the world depends on the leadership of the
4 United States in science and technology;

5 (7) the United States must remain a leader in
6 the fight against bioterrorism; and

7 (8) biosecurity and a strong agro-defense sys-
8 tem are achievable goals for the United States in the
9 global war on terrorism.

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