



Cattle Producers of Louisiana
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April 30, 2011

The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator
431 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Landrieu:

Cattle Producers of Louisiana joins with R-CALF USA and many other organizations, as well as the thousands of cattle producers nationwide in requesting your help to halt the ill conceived relocation of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center from Plum Island, New York to Kansas State University at Manhattan, Kansas.

Establishing the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), an operation which would possess and manipulate the most contagious and dangerous animal pathogens known, on the mainland at Manhattan, Kansas surrounded by thousands of cattle is an absurd effort whose time should never come.

The Department of Homeland Security's own risk assessment predicts a 70% probability of a foot and mouth disease outbreak as a result of the activities of the facility to be located at Manhattan, Kansas, a probability deemed to be too low by the GAO and the National Research Council.

It is only reasonable that citizens of the United States should be able to expect that the Department of Homeland Security would engage in activities which minimize the risk to our country. That they would proceed with this inherently unnecessary and dangerous project, with such an apparent zeal, in the face of overwhelming evidence of probable doom is Orwellian at best.

Should DHS be successful in accomplishing this relocation which could devastate the U.S. cattle industry, they should be instructed to proceed with urgent haste to develop an operational plan for the euthanasia of thousands of cattle to deal with the probable outbreak of foot and mouth disease which is predicted to result from this misguided effort.

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If Kansas State University possesses a unique ability to enhance the study of these highly contagious animal diseases, perhaps consideration should be given to establishing a branch of KSU at Plum Island, New York at government expense.

We urge you to do whatever you can to stop this misguided effort and finally bring about the demise of a dumb idea.

Thank you for your continuing effective representation of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Foster". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dave Foster
CEO
Cattle Producers of Louisiana