

Fighting for the U.S. Cattle Producer!



R-CALF

USA

R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America
P.O. Box 30715
Billings, MT 59107
Fax: 406-252-3176
Phone: 406-252-2516
Website: www.r-calfusa.com
E-mail: r-calfusa@r-calfusa.com

April 27, 2011

The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu
Chair
United States Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sent Via Facsimile: 202-224-2100; 202-224-9735

Re: Request to Strike All Funding for Proposed NBAF Amidst Probe of Possible Corruption Involving Entity Charged with Assisting the Department of Homeland Security in Its Site Selection Process

Dear Chairwoman Landrieu:

On behalf of its thousands of cattle producing members, including its cattle producing members in Louisiana, R-CALF USA urges you to strike from the federal budget all funding for the proposed National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF). The NBAF would, for the first time, introduce to the mainland dangerous live viruses, such as the foot-and-mouth disease virus (FMDv), known to be highly contagious to cattle.

We contend there is absolutely no justification for locating the NBAF in Kansas where the risk of infecting U.S. cattle with FMDv is extraordinarily high. As indicated in the attached letter we sent today to the Secretary of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) predicted the likelihood of an inadvertent release of FMDv would be 70 percent during the expected life of the facility.

Also referenced in the attached letter are media reports indicating the State of Kansas entity charged with assisting Kansas in securing the NBAF – the Kansas Bioscience Authority (KBA), is now under criminal investigation and the subject of an investigation by the Kansas Commerce Committee. The KBA was additionally responsible for assisting the Department of Homeland Security in its process of conducting an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Kansas sites.

We are deeply concerned that the reports of possible corruption within KBA – an entity reported to have been intimately involved in assisting DHS in making its Kansas site selection, now provides a plausible explanation as to why the DHS has supported its unjustified decision to locate the NBAF on the mainland in Manhattan, Kansas. The recent allegations of possible corruption within KBA raise the very real specter that DHS based its decision on inappropriate considerations. This has been our contention all along.

The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu

April 27, 2011

Page 2

We urge you to strike from the federal budget all funding for the proposed National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) and to initiate a thorough, probing investigation to determine the extent to which the KBA influenced DHS' decision to expose our U.S. cattle herd to a heightened risk of disease introduction by locating the NBAF in Manhattan, Kansas.

Please let us know if there is any additional information we can provide to assist you in preserving the health and safety of our U.S. cattle herd.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Bullard", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Bill Bullard, CEO

Attachment: April 27, 2011, Letter to Secretary Napolitano