

By: Corte

H.C.R. No. 173

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Homeland Security
2 (DHS) has initiated a competitive process to select a site for the
3 National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), a
4 first-in-the-nation integrated research endeavor designed to
5 support the complementary missions of the DHS, the Department of
6 Health and Human Services, and the United States Department of
7 Agriculture by assessing national security risks from emerging
8 diseases that threaten animal and human health in the United
9 States; and

10 WHEREAS, The Texas Bio- and Agro-Defense Consortium (TBAC),
11 comprising three San Antonio research institutions, and the Texas
12 A&M NBAF Consortium led by Texas A&M University have each submitted
13 bids to locate the NBAF center in Texas with proposed sites at
14 Brooks City-Base, the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical
15 Research, and Texas Research Park in San Antonio and Research
16 Valley centered around College Station; and

17 WHEREAS, The only city in the nation with three NBAF sites
18 under consideration, the City of San Antonio offers a
19 well-established, \$14 billion biomedical industry, a related
20 workforce of more than 100,000, and an outstanding national
21 reputation for scientific research; the city currently supports
22 multiple Bio Safety Level-3 laboratories and is home to the
23 nation's only privately owned Bio Safety Level-4 laboratory; and

24 WHEREAS, The Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research is

1 one of the leading independent biomedical research institutions in
2 the nation, partnering with hundreds of researchers and
3 institutions around the world in the fight against cancer, AIDS,
4 heart disease, and diabetes; similarly, The University of Texas
5 Health Science Center at San Antonio is home to esteemed
6 researchers who study established and emerging infectious diseases
7 and potential bioterror threats, often in collaboration with
8 scientists at The University of Texas at San Antonio; and

9 WHEREAS, The Texas A&M proposal benefits from the
10 university's strong leadership in biotechnology research,
11 including two world-class facilities in the National Center for
12 Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense and the Institute for
13 Plant Genomics and Biotechnology; the school also features the
14 state's only College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical
15 Sciences; and

16 WHEREAS, In addition, Texas A&M University and its consortium
17 partners have extensive experience in conducting research in Bio
18 Safety Level-3 and Level-4 environments, feature education and
19 training programs that can provide technical and professional
20 staffing for the NBAF, and have significant expertise in bringing
21 together the nation's best scientific talent; and

22 WHEREAS, Both Texas proposals explicitly address Department
23 of Homeland Security requirements relating to detection,
24 diagnosis, prevention, and recovery, and the state's leadership has
25 long supported the department's national security priorities;
26 given the quality of the two bids for the NBAF and the state's
27 long-standing dedication to national security issues, Texas is a

1 clear choice for this research endeavor; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
3 hereby express support for bids by the Texas Bio- and Agro-Defense
4 Consortium and the Texas A&M NBAF Consortium to locate the United
5 States Department of Homeland Security's National Bio and
6 Agro-Defense Facility in Texas; and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the legislature commend the City of San
8 Antonio and Texas A&M University for their leadership and support
9 of the biomedical and biotechnology industries and recognize the
10 state's continued support for national defense and the mission of
11 the United States Department of Homeland Security; and, be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward an
14 official copy of this resolution to the United States secretary of
15 homeland security.