

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 47

Recognizing the importance of biosecurity and agrodefense in the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 10, 2011

Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of biosecurity and agrodefense in the United States.

Whereas following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the Nation took notice of the global threat of terrorism;

Whereas the new reality after the attacks of September 11, 2001, led to an increase of resources focused on combating attack from the enemies of the United States;

Whereas Congress established the Department of Homeland Security in 2002 with the intent of meeting the challenges plaguing our Nation;

Whereas the attacks made visible the vulnerability of our food supply and agriculture economy;

Whereas the President of the United States issued a Homeland Security Directive entitled the “Defense of United States Agriculture and Food” on January 30, 2004;

Whereas the Department of Homeland Security in partnership with the Department of Agriculture recognized the challenges of agroterrorism early on;

Whereas the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism assessed in its 2008 report entitled “World At Risk”, “the U.S. government has invested most of its nonproliferation efforts and diplomatic capital in preventing nuclear terrorism. The Commission believes that it should make the more likely threat—bioterrorism—a higher priority. Only by elevating the priority of the biological weapons threat will it be possible to bring about substantial improvements in global biosecurity”; and

Whereas the threat of attack from the enemies of the United States continues and there is much remaining work:
Now, therefore, be it

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

2 (1) while the United States continues to combat
3 terrorism in all forms around the world, the safety,
4 security, and health of our livestock and agriculture
5 commodities must not be forgotten;

6 (2) research and investment in biosecurity and
7 biosafety should remain a top priority for Congress;

8 (3) providing the resources, both intellectually
9 and materially, for the advancement of vaccines and
10 hopeful eradication of deadly pathogens and emerg-

1 ing zoonotic disease is an integral part of providing
2 homeland defense;

3 (4) a laboratory capable of handling such dead-
4 ly diseases is necessary to meet the demand for such
5 resources, and such laboratory should be constructed
6 to the highest standards of safety and security, and
7 should meet the requirements of a biosafety level 4
8 laboratory;

9 (5) without the tools necessary to protect the
10 citizens, agriculture economy, and food supply of the
11 United States, the United States remains vulnerable
12 to attack and chaos;

13 (6) the world depends on the food and fiber
14 that the United States produces;

15 (7) the world depends on the leadership of the
16 United States in science and technology;

17 (8) the United States must remain the leader in
18 the fight against bioterrorism; and

19 (9) biosecurity and agrodefense are achievable
20 goals for the United States in the global war on ter-
21 rorism.

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