

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 138

BY MERTZ and DRAKE

1 A Resolution supporting the proposal of Iowa State  
2 University to pursue the location of the national  
3 bio and agro-defense facility at the site of the  
4 current National Center for Animal Health in Ames,  
5 Iowa.

6 WHEREAS, the security of Iowa and the United States  
7 depends on an integrated national bio and agro-defense  
8 strategy; and

9 WHEREAS, the federal Department of Homeland  
10 Security has determined an urgent need exists for a  
11 new integrated research infrastructure to provide  
12 research, development, testing, and evaluation that  
13 will enhance agricultural and public health; and

14 WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security has  
15 proposed construction of a national bio and agro-  
16 defense facility which will be an integrated human,  
17 foreign animal, and zoonotic disease research and  
18 testing facility to support the complementary missions  
19 of the Department of Homeland Security, the United  
20 States Department of Health and Human Services, and  
21 the United States Department of Agriculture; and

22 WHEREAS, the state of Iowa is a leading state in  
23 livestock production, a multibillion dollar industry  
24 of critical importance to the state's economy; and

25 WHEREAS, the state of Iowa is already the location  
26 of several research assets of great importance to this  
27 new national effort, including the National Center for  
28 Animal Health, the National Animal Disease Center, the

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1 National Veterinary Services Laboratory, the Center  
2 for Veterinary Biologics, Iowa State University  
3 College of Agriculture, Iowa State University College  
4 of Veterinary Medicine, the University of Iowa College  
5 of Medicine, the University of Iowa College of Public  
6 Health, the Iowa Hygienic Laboratory, and University  
7 of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics; and

8 WHEREAS, these assets include state-of-the-art  
9 facilities and laboratories which could greatly  
10 enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of a national  
11 bio and agro-defense facility; and

12 WHEREAS, the current site of the National Center  
13 for Animal Health in Ames, Iowa, is undergoing a \$460  
14 million remodernization and has a large number of  
15 scientists and support staff for potential  
16 collaborations, making the Ames location an ideal  
17 choice for effective and efficient implementation of  
18 an integrated bio and agro-defense facility; and

19 WHEREAS, Iowa State University of Science and  
20 Technology intends to submit a proposal to the  
21 Department of Homeland Security for the construction  
22 and operation of the national bio and agro-defense  
23 facility in Ames; and

24 WHEREAS, the Iowa State University proposal will  
25 consist of a consortium of academic institutions and  
26 industry, commodity, and professional organizations  
27 from across the nation that brings together the  
28 necessary research and development expertise to  
29 address these high-consequence human, foreign animal,  
30 and zoonotic pathogens; NOW THEREFORE,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
2 That the House of Representatives supports the  
3 proposal of Iowa State University to pursue the  
4 location of the national bio and agro-defense facility  
5 at the site of the current National Center for Animal  
6 Health in Ames.

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