



Midwestern Governors Association

May 16, 2008

The Honorable Jay Cohen
Under Secretary for Science and Technology
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Under Secretary Cohen:

As Chair of the Midwest Governors Association (MGA), a bipartisan organization representing 12 states, I write on its behalf to commend the federal government for its intention to build the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) and to encourage you to select Kansas as the best home for this facility on the merits.

In the heartland of America, we clearly recognize the urgent need for cutting-edge animal-health research to protect the food supply and the agriculture economy. The NBAF mission is critical, and it can best be achieved in Kansas, where the animal-health sector already thrives and where agro-security has been a priority for years.

Further, by building the NBAF in Kansas, the federal government will benefit greatly from the agricultural expertise and resources concentrated in this region of the country.

The Midwest offers strong public and private support and an unmatched spirit of collaboration as we work to ensure the nation's food supply is protected for the families of our states. Indeed, we strongly urge you to bring this important project to Kansas for the benefit of all Americans who rely on the federal government for safe, modern, and innovative research that will protect the public health for decades to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Michael Rounds". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

M. Michael Rounds
Governor of South Dakota and Chair,
Midwestern Governors Association