

Senate Resolution 447

By: Senator Whitehead, Sr. of the 24th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Governor to continue his pursuit of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility
2 for Georgia and expressing the Senate's support of his efforts; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, a national research facility that could fight pandemics such as bird flu, combat
4 bioterrorism, and provide hundreds of high-paying jobs has been proposed on the national
5 level; and

6 WHEREAS, in these uncertain times of global terrorism, it is essential that our nation have
7 such a state-of-the-art facility as part of the Department of Homeland Security which will
8 replace the aging Plum Island facility; and

9 WHEREAS, the new \$450 million facility would bring 1,000 construction jobs, house 450
10 federal workers, employ over 500 full-time scientists, and have an estimated economic
11 impact in Georgia of up to \$6 billion over the next 20 years; and

12 WHEREAS, the new facility's responsibilities would include the study of animal diseases
13 foreign to the United States, transmission of disease between animals and humans, vaccine
14 development, and safety of the American food supply; and

15 WHEREAS, the University of Georgia (UGA) has been selected as one of the 18 finalists for
16 the possible location of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility; and

17 WHEREAS, the research capabilities and work force availability at UGA make it a
18 promising host site, and the surrounding community has expressed its support for the location
19 of the facility in this area; and

20 WHEREAS, the placement of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in this state would
21 cement Georgia's role as a recognized national and world leader in this highly competitive
22 field.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
2 urge the Governor to continue his pursuit of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility for
3 Georgia and express their support of his efforts.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
5 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Governor and to each member of the
6 Georgia congressional delegation.