

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION: 15 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT MATTER: FUNDING FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, VETERINARY SERVICES, CENTER FOR VETERINARY BIOLOGICS

DATES: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 12-18, 2006

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB), has the licensing and enforcement responsibilities for the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act (VST Act) to assure that veterinary biological products distributed in the United States are pure, safe, potent, and effective.

In fiscal year 2007, CVB faces increased costs for the operation of new facilities at the National Center for Animal Health (NCAH). Furthermore, in fiscal year 2007, CVB also faces increased costs for shared-service personnel at the NCAH.

Congressional agricultural leaders had the foresight in 2000 to authorize the NCAH, and resulting is a world class facility featuring advanced design and equipment. But we cannot stop when the bricks are in place: the expanded capabilities also bring increased costs. Without adequate funding for personnel and operating costs, the great capabilities of the new facilities cannot be utilized. Availability of CVB services will be limited and international trade negatively impacted without sufficient resources dedicated to the review and approval of new and improved biological products.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States House and Senate Appropriations Committees to support the President's proposed budget of \$19,369,000 for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB).