

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman **Ciro D. Rodriguez** (TX-23) and Congressman **Charles Gonzalez** (TX-20) issued the following statement regarding today's announcement of the selection of the Texas Research Park Foundation in San Antonio (U.S. Congressional District 23) as a finalist for the Department of Homeland Security National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NABF):

"The selection of Texas Research Park as a finalist for a National Bio and Agro Defense Facility is very good news for San Antonio. This DHS program would be a great addition to San Antonio's robust research economy and would translate into an investment of nearly half a billion dollars in San Antonio's research infrastructure," **said Congressman **Ciro D. Rodriguez****.

"The research to be done at this facility will support the development of new biological and agricultural safeguards and will enhance our ability to respond to new and emerging bioterrorism threats."

"I'm pleased by the Department of Homeland Security's announcement and proud that San Antonio will be well represented as they move forward with their site selection process," **said Congressman **Charles Gonzalez****. "As they continue their search for a suitable site, the DHS will quickly learn that San Antonio presents an abundance of resources that make it an ideal location for their National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility. I'm grateful that San Antonio has made it this far in the process and I'm optimistic about our city's prospects as we move forward."

The Department of Homeland Security describes the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) as a research facility for research of high-consequence biological threats involving human, zoonotic, and foreign animal diseases. The state-of-the-art facility will integrate aspects of public and animal health research that have been determined to be central to national security; will assess and research evolving bioterrorism threats over the next five decades; and will enable the Departments of Homeland Security, Agriculture (USDA), and Health and Human Services (HHS) to fulfill their related homeland defense research, development, testing, and evaluation (RDT&E) responsibilities.

Congressman Rodriguez is a Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security. Congressman Gonzalez is Chairman of the House Small Business Subcommittee on Regulations, Healthcare and Trade.

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