

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2022

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB703

Chairperson: Senator John Stinner

Committee: Appropriations

Date of Hearing: February 17, 2022

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB703 would appropriate \$25 million from the American Recovery Plan Act to provide for the building and construction of a companion facility to the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Center for Resilient and Regenerative Agriculture located at Nebraska Innovation Campus. The \$25 million would serve as a state match to the \$25 million raised through private philanthropic efforts.

The National Center for Resilient and Regenerative Agriculture, run by the USDA, is a proposed \$108 million federally funded facility to be located at Nebraska Innovation Campus. The USDA Center would provide the nation with cutting-edge research to advance the technology of precision agriculture. LB703 would help fund a companion building that would house an adjacent public-private partnership facility designed for research and ag-tech startup space where experts from the University of Nebraska, federal, state, and private-sector partners could collaborate to solve challenges facing the nation's agriculture industry.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on Nebraska's economy which necessitates a forward-thinking, next-generation approach to growing Nebraska's agricultural workforce and business community. Using ARPA funds for the capital expenditure of a companion building to the USDA facility would help Nebraska's economy recover above and beyond the negative effects from the pandemic.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Matt Williams